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GHANA BE A STAR

TONY YEBOAH'S stunning goal against Liverpool at Elland Road, a thunderbolt volley from 25 yards, is already being talked about as *the* goal of the season. The 29-year-old Ghanaian, who has transformed Leeds' fortunes since his arrival from Eintracht Frankfurt, has an unlikely secret weapon – Yorkshire pudding. He first tried the dish before going out and scoring a hat-trick against Ipswich last season and he now tucks into a plateful of puddings before every match.

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ESM
EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES

Keir Radnedge
COMMENTARY

War of the world

The organisation of global football, its political structure and its financial set-up are all being debated. Widespread changes are proposed – changes which could have a knock-on effect in other sports as well as in football. FIFA's old order will be swept away for the 21st century if UEFA gets its way. Keir Radnedge, editor of WORLD SOCCER, reveals the background – and forecasts what might happen . . .

THE REVOLUTION is under way and this time there is no turning back. At stake is not merely the hegemony of FIFA president Joao Havelange but the entire financial and political structure of the world game.

If all goes according to plan – a plan largely drawn up by UEFA (Europe) and CAF (Africa) – then the Day of the Autocrat is over. And where international football leads, the rest of the sporting world follows.

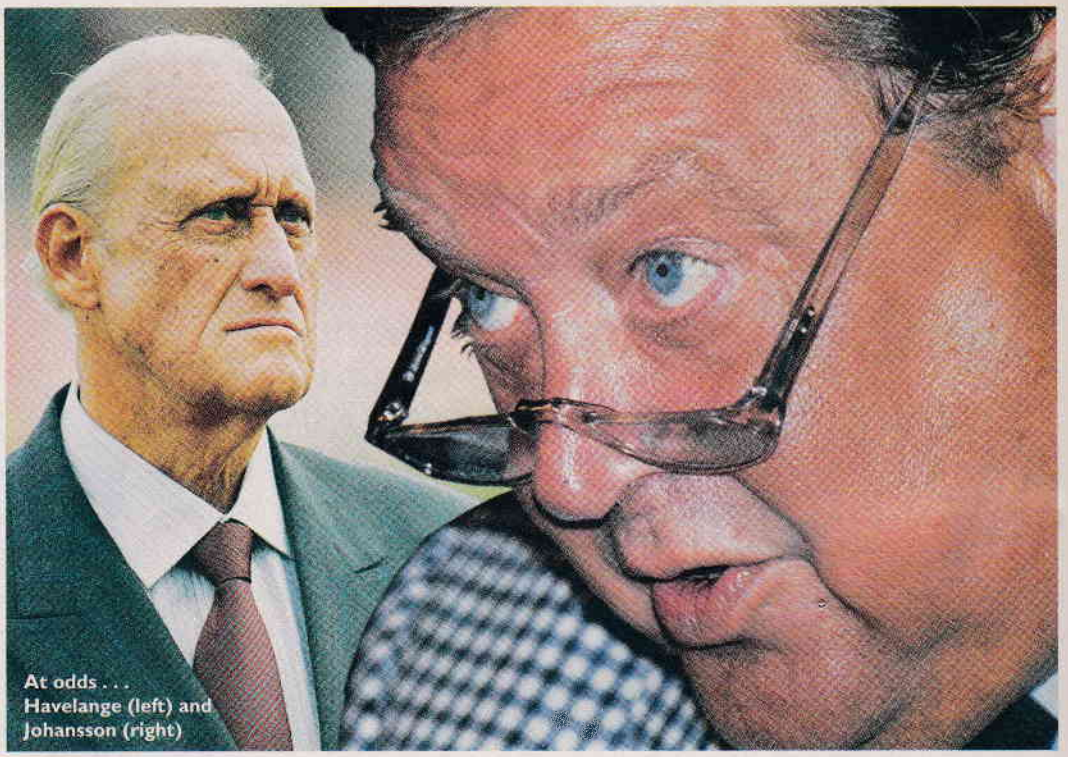
That's why the fate of a carefully-argued broadside fired into FIFA House will be watched with such enormous concentration. If the game is up for Havelange (and, to be fair, he has defied all previous attempts to write him off) then it is up too for the likes of Juan Antonio Samaranch at the International Olympic Committee and Primo Nebiolo at the International Amateur Athletic Federation (the joke is in the title!).

It won't all happen overnight. The old order will fade away rather than collapse in a puff of smoke and shower of vitriol. But the television and sponsorship finance which was the original lever of power for the Havelanges of this sporting world has now trickled down so far that it has handed power back to the federations.

And, after years of being ordered about, they are ready to turn in a Very Big Way.

The key to football's own impending political revolution was UEFA's belated recognition – as we have long propounded in these columns – that the traditionalist axis of Europe and South America no longer worked in political terms within FIFA. The world federation is admirably set up with a one-member one-vote system. But while UEFA refused first to countenance any political compromises it remained sidelined in the power game.

At one time UEFA and CAF were barely talking. A mutual suspicion existed between the two. Now realpolitik has broken through – and not before time. Europe's financial muscle (and 49 votes) plus Africa's 51 votes add up to a working majority. Take in, for the sake of argument, CONCACAF (the North and Central American Confederation) and you are heading towards the all-important two-thirds majority.



At odds . . . Havelange (left) and Johansson (right)

So much for the mechanics which appear, at long last, to be resolved. Havelange and FIFA general-secretary Sepp Blatter must think so from the haste with which they convened a meeting of the Emergency Committee in Zurich on September 8.

The appearance was distinctly one of the panic buttons being pressed.

In May UEFA president Lennart Johansson and CAF president Issa Hayatou wrote a joint letter to Havelange demanding a greater degree of open government within the world game, particularly in regard to television and marketing matters. The letter was, in effect, filed away.

But that, it now emerges, was the first warning shot.

Now UEFA has drawn up a discussion document entitled Vision which proposes a far-reaching shake-up to relaunch football administratively, financially and competitively for the 21st century.

In simple terms, the proposals are these:

The present six regional confederations should be reduced to four with Oceania being swallowed up by Asia and with CONCACAF merging with CONMEBOL (South America) to create one all-American confederation;

The World Cup would rotate between the four confederations. Thus each confederation would stage the World Cup once in each 16-year cycle;

The FIFA executive committee members would be chosen by the confederations rather than at the behest of the president;

Most important of all: the FIFA presidency would also rotate between the confederations, with a maximum four-year term of office and each confederation beginning its presidency in the year of its World Cup (This has a hidden initial benefit for UEFA).

None of these proposals are new. They have been shot down one by one in successive FIFA Congresses or not even gained enough support to get on to the agenda.

What Johansson and his UEFA legal draughtsmen have done is to tie them all together in one considered, interdependent package. For example, the Africans proposed a rotating World Cup at FIFA Congress in Chicago in 1994. This was resoundingly defeated because Europe wanted to host the World Cup finals rather more often than once every 20-plus years. But, tie in that proposal with a tighter calendar based on fewer confederations and throw in UEFA's own desire to prevent the rise of any future Havelange (for example, the nightmare scenario of his son-in-law Ricardo Teixeira) and you have a compromise which can gather wide support.

The rotating presidency also answers the problem which arose after the Pele Affair at the 1994 World Cup draw when it rapidly became clear that, however many people were growing increasingly uneasy about Havelange, no single individual existed with the charisma, patronage and power to replace him. (Watching Havelange ruthlessly grinding his would-be opponents beneath his heel at the ensuing Chicago Congress was a quite awesome sight.)

UEFA and its supporters want to push back the FIFA sphere of involvement to guarding the laws of the game (many federations are now fed up to the back teeth with the constant tinkering with regulations), to running the finals competitions of the world events and to co-ordinating the governance of the game and its development, particularly through coaching.

It has to be said that Blatter's hands-on approach, while admirable in terms of refereeing, has not been appreciated in other areas. Other minor niggles have influenced men and minds – not least the chaos over Nigeria's hosting of the World Youth Cup and then the slapping down of the German and Portuguese federations over their response to referee errors in important games. But these are mere sidelines. The time has come for FIFA to stop messing around with distractions such as the kick-in and time-outs and concentrate on more central issues.

One is television, another is sponsorship. The confederations have grown increasingly worried at the separate accounting systems used for general World Cup administrative funds and for the multi-national sponsorship income. UEFA, having successfully pioneered a single-pot approach in the Champions League with an open-to-view profits distribution among the federations, knows the ropes.

Also, it is clearly a nonsense that the Olympic Games should rake in seven or eight times the TV income of the World Cup. Havelange and Blatter justify this on the grounds that FIFA is not a profit-making organisation and is concerned with product quality rather than its bank account. But coaching academies, referee tutorials, etc, all cost money. There is no guarantee that football will remain the darling of ratings-orientated television companies. Those in authority clearly carry the responsibility of capitalising on an asset while it remains precisely that.

Vision was intended, by UEFA, to remain a private document. But secrecy and football politics are mutually exclusive. The document – and FIFA's initial reply – were leaked to *Sport Intern*, a newsletter for the sports marketing business.

The cat was out of the bag and both UEFA and FIFA then had to come clean. Such a leak perhaps marginally harmed UEFA's cause because FIFA has now been put, very publicly, on the back foot. Room for compromise in the corridors of power has been significantly reduced.

Of course, Havelange and Blatter, the key personalities who might feel personally affronted at such a critical examination of their feifdom, have long since given notice that they will not be around beyond 1998. But, in the world of politics, what is said and what is intended may sometimes be diametrically opposed.

UEFA believes it has wide-ranging worldwide support for its proposals. South America will fight – out of loyalty to Havelange and for fear of becoming a political backwater in the world game. But CONMEBOL president Jack Warner has mused in the past on the benefits of an all-American confederation.

Next year's FIFA Congress is the occasion on which the bricks could be put in place as far as the initial amendments to regulations and statutes are concerned. Long before then, the outcome will have been decided.

If Havelange doesn't like it – and plainly, from the tone of his letter to Johansson reprinted here, he doesn't – then he has only himself to blame.

FIFA beware! Times they are a-changing.

CALENDAR FOR A NEW WORLD VISION

1996: FIFA Congress to adopt UEFA's proposals and change the statutes.
1998: World Cup in France . . . UEFA takes over the FIFA presidency for a four-year term.
2002: World Cup in Asia . . . Asia takes over the FIFA presidency.
2006: World Cup in Europe . . . UEFA takes over the FIFA presidency.
2010: World Cup in Africa . . . Africa takes over FIFA presidency.
2014: World Cup in the Americas . . . Americas takes over FIFA presidency.
2018: World Cup in Asia . . . Asia takes over FIFA presidency.
2022: World Cup back in Europe . . . and so on.

FIFA'S REACTION

Dear President Johansson,

With reference to your letters of June 10, 1995, and the document entitled Vision I, which was enclosed for the attention of the president and general secretary, we would like to give you our views now that we have briefly analysed the problems your proposal engenders.

A - General comments:

1, It demotes FIFA to a simple coordinating body, whose sole direct power consists in organising final competitions, the principles for which are laid down in the Statutes (World Cup, Olympic football tournaments, Under-20 World Youth Championship, Under-17 World Championship, Women's World Cup, Fusal Indoor World Championship), and, possibly, in laying down the principles governing refereeing (including the Laws of the Game) and the technical aspects of football;

2, It substantially reinforces the role of the confederations which, currently existing as executive and coordinating bodies, acquire the status of groups sharing in the management of FIFA along similar lines to that of an administrative council of a holding company, in which the presidency would change in regular sequence by group according to specific criteria;

3, It reduces the number of confederations to four (UEFA, AFC, CAF and the Americas) thereby eliminating a confederation which carries undeniable political weight (CONMEBOL) as well as a geographical group which is currently enjoying a rapid expansion (Oceania);

4, It introduces a rotatory system for both the FIFA presidency and the staging of the World Cup, starting with the 1998 World Cup in Europe, going to Asia in 2002 and returning to Europe again in 2006 which, in itself, belies the principles of democracy. May we recall that this rotation of the World Cup was rejected by the 1994 FIFA Congress;

5, It introduces a new, more restricted kind of executive committee under the control of the confederations.

B - Consequences:

1, It emerges from the foregoing that Vision calls into question the entire basis on which FIFA is founded - the unification of all national associations - in order to convert it into a group of confederations. Therefore, instead of uniting the football family, on the contrary it has the effect of splitting it up and separating it;

2, The proposals which Vision puts forward therefore run counter to FIFA's very objectives (Article 2 of the Statutes, objects of the Federation);

3, Vision can only be implemented by radically changing the current FIFA statutes which, after four years' work in which representatives of all continents and all confederations took part, were adopted by the FIFA Congress in Rome in 1990. They were then completed at the 1992 and 1994 Congresses in Zurich and Chicago respectively, by the addition of various regulations. Thus FIFA's present constitution complies with the will of the entire football community. In other words, it meets with the approval of all 193 member national associations.

We should be grateful if you would inform your executive committee members of the views we have expressed above. A copy of this letter is being sent direct to the confederation presidents and to the members of the FIFA executive committee,

Yours faithfully,

FIFA: The President,
Joao Havelange

The General Secretary,
J S Blatter

Major League Sanchez

HUGO SANCHEZ, the former Real Madrid and Mexico striker, has decided to play in the United States next season when Major League Soccer begins.

Sanchez *(pictured below)*, will join fellow Mexican international Jorge Campos in the fledgling league. "I started my career in the US and I am thrilled to be able to finish it here. I would like to help the new league the way Pele and Beckenbauer helped the NASL," the 37-year-old striker said.

Sanchez is currently with Atlante of Mexico, and played in the NASL with San Diego Sockers in 1979 as well as three World Cups and two Olympic tournaments. He has signed a one-year contract with MLS, but is not sure which of the 10 proposed teams he will line up for. Campos already has been guaranteed a place with the Los Angeles team.

Badge Business

COLO COLO

CHILE's most successful club, Colo Colo, were founded in 1925 at a meeting of rebel Magallanes players in the Quitapanes restaurant in Santiago. The rebels, who wanted to go professional, took their name from the legendary rebel Indian chieftain who looms large in Chilean history and best personified their ideals. To this day, the old warrior can be found on the club's badge and all around their Estadio Monumental David Arellano in Santiago.

La Gazzetta dello Sport

Ince makes an impression

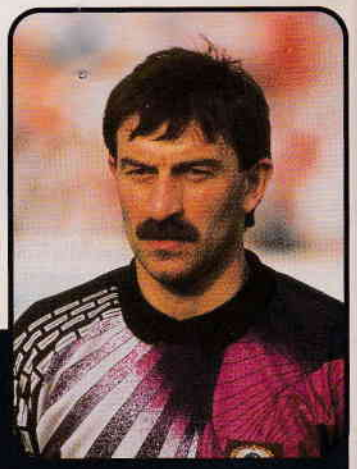
Winning ways . Ince has won the Italian press

ENGLAND and Internazionale midfielder Paul Ince has made a positive impression on the Italian media, a crucial factor in adapting to life in the Serie A. *La Gazzetta dello Sport* rated 20 of the new foreign signings in Italy, based on appearances and goals scored in pre-season games, and Ince was made the leading midfielder with two goals from five games. Hristo Stoichkov and George Weah took top honours with four star ratings each. Weah, of Milan, has two goals in four games, while Stoichkov has scored in each of his three appearances for Parma.

GAZZETTA DELLO SPORT'S TOP 5 NEW FOREIGN SIGNINGS

Player	*Pos*	*Club*	*Country*	*Rating*
Hristo **STOICHKOV**	F	Parma	Bulgaria	☆☆☆☆
George **WEAH**	F	Milan	Liberia	☆☆☆☆
Paul **INCE**	M	Intern	England	☆☆☆
Clarence **SEEDORF**	M	Sampdoria	Holland	☆☆☆
Javier **ZANETTI**	D	Intern	Argentina	☆☆☆

"When you look at the tip opposite our main stand, it's almost as if some of Fred West's bodies are under there and we can't build until they are dug up." – *Dave Bassett lamenting Sheffield United's unbuilt stand.*



From Russia, with gloves

GOALKEEPER Stanislav Cherchesov *(above)* **has joined Moscow Spartak, the third Russian international to join the club in a month.**

Cherchesov, 33, joined Russian champions Spartak from troubled German club Dynamo Dresden, who were relegated to a minor league last season because of financial irregularities. He follows midfielder Vasili Kulkov and striker Sergei Yuran, who both joined Spartak from FC Porto.

Body parts

Tottenham fans mourning the loss of Jurgen Klinsmann would do well to avoid the German magazine *Kicker*. Each week, *Kicker* is publishing a picture of a different part of Klinsmann's body in a cut out and keep collection which, if all 19 pages are combined, leaves readers with a life-size poster of the German captain.

"We're not looking back, to us it is the start of a new era, not the end of an old era with an ugly black stain." – Anonymous Belgian FA official on the opening of the new Heysel Stadium, the King Baudouin Stadium.

£OOTBALL £INANCIAL

Income: £387million . . . profit: £12,000

CHARTERED accountants Touche Ross have published the results of their Annual Survey of [English] Football Club Accounts for 1993-94, and it does not make for happy reading.

The figures show that professional soccer's income of £387million for 1993-94 generated only £12,000 profit. Furthermore, the distribution of profit was grossly distorted, with an avergae operating profit of £1.86m for the Premier League clubs, compared to average losses of £251,000 for clubs in the Football League.

The results reveal that the gap between the top clubs and those in the lower divisions is getting wider, and the recent trend of Premiership clubs buying players from overseas has exacerbated the plight of the smaller clubs.

Other key points in the survey reveal . . .

- Total turnover for the English league clubs increased by 20% in 1993-94 on the previous year (total operatiing profit increased by 13%).
- Premier League clubs generated 62% of football's total income.
- Average operating profit for a Premier League club went up 27% to £1.86m.
- Manchester United increased their merchandising income by 172% in 1993-94, the £14.2m in revenue accounting for 32% of its turnover.
- Players earnings rose by 19%.
- Wages and salaries consumed 55% of total turnover of all pro clubs.
- £92million was spent on transfers between the 92 clubs.
- More than £82million was spent on ground improvements.

McDonald's added to Premier League menu

FAST-FOOD giant McDonald's have joined the Premier League's sponsorship family in a £7million deal, much of which will go towards initiatives to boost match attendances among young people.

McDonald's have been granted official restaurant status in the deal by the Premier League, which gives them the right to use the League's logo in all their marketing activities.

Pentland score with Mitre

PENTLAND have purchased the Mitre sports group from America's Genesco for £7million. Mitre, who have been manufacturing footballs in Huddersfield since 1862, supplies footballs to the England team, the FA Premier League and the Endsleigh Football League.

The purchase adds Mitre to Pentland's other football companies – Reusch (goalkeeping equipment) and Pony (kit suppliers). Reusch recently hit the headlines when Brazil goalkeeper Taffarel was fined and suspended by FIFA for wearing gloves with illegally-large Reusch logos on them, while Pony currently supply Tottenham, Southampton and West Ham with their strips.

Sports

Arrested development

THE most important goal Roy Lassiter has ever scored may have done him more harm than good. The 26-year-old striker scored the US's winning goal in the Parmalat Cup third place play-off against Benfica . . . and was then arrested in connection with a three-year-old burglary case. Lassiter, who has been playing in Costa Rica for the past three seasons, said he was unaware of the arrest warrants until he returned home. Lassiter's career may be on the up, though. While awaiting his court appearance, he was reported to have signed for Brazililan club Santos.

Cop that . . . Roy Lassiter takes a tumble against Benfica

Oldie but a goodie

MARIO KEMPES is still going strong – at the age of 39. The Argentinian star of the 1978 World Cup finals is planning a return to professional football with Chilean Second Division side Fernandez Vial.

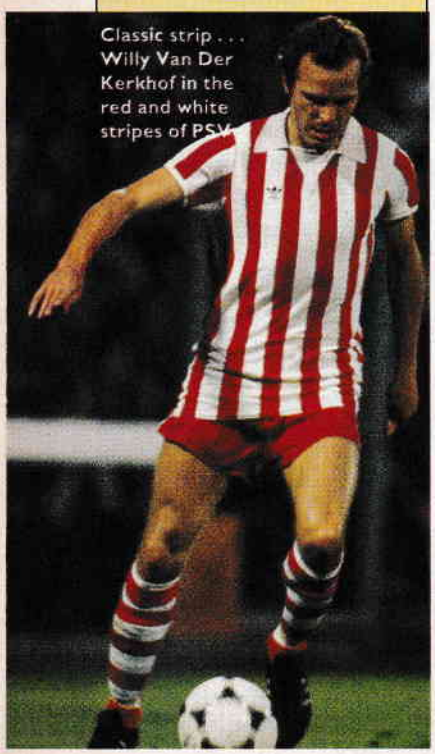
Immel fix it

MANCHESTER CITY have solved their goalkeeping crisis by paying £400,000 for VfB Stuttgart's Eike Immel. The 34-year-old keeper, who signed an initial one-year contract, joins fellow German Uwe Rosler at Maine Road. Immel, who has 20 caps for West Germany, was the first-choice goalkeeper at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico and has made 534 Bundesliga appearances. Immel also revealed that one of his heroes is Bert Trautmann, the German keeper who played for City in the 1940s and '50s.

Shirt Tales

PSV EINDHOVEN

PSV were formed on 'Queensday' in 1913 at a meeting instigated by Gerard and Anton Philips – the founders of the Philips electrical company – and decided their colours the very same day. At the meeting the club's first president, Mr Hofkes, chose the colours of red and white from the white linen cloth on the table in front of him, and from a bottle of red lemonade on the table. Mr Hofkes was a teetotaller, hence the lemonade.



Classic strip . . . Willy Van Der Kerkhof in the red and white stripes of PSV

COMPILED BY GAVIN HAMILTON & JOHN KELLY

TRANSFER TRAIL

Nick **BARMBY**	F	Tottenham	Middlesbrough
Basile **BOLI**	D	Rangers	Monaco
Emilio **BUTRAGUENO**	F	Real Madrid	Atletico Celaya (Mex)
Stanislav **CHERCHESOV**	G	Dynamo Dresden	Moscow Spartak
Igor **CVITANOVIC**	F	FC Croatia	Middlesbrough
Matt **HOLMES**	D	West Ham	Blackburn
Eike **IMMEL**	G	VfB Stuttgart	Man City
Vasili **KULKOV**	D	FC Porto	Moscow Spartak
Nii **LAMPTEY**	M	Anderlecht	Coventry City
Mike **LAPPER**	D	USSF	Southend Utd
Stan **LAZARIDES**	F	West Adelaide	West Ham
Gustavo **MENDEZ**	D	Nacional	Vicenza
Luc **NIJHOLT**	M	Swindon Town	Volendam
Marcelo **OTERO**	F	Penarol	Vicenza
Nikolai **PISAREV**	F	Moscow Spartak	Merida
Fredy **RINCON**	M	Palmeiras	Real Madrid
Hugo **SANCHEZ**	F	Atlante (Mex)	MLS
Robbie **SLATER**	M	Blackburn	West Ham
Ruben **SOSA**	F	Internazionale	Borussia Dortmund
Shaun **TEALE**	D	Aston Villa	Tranmere Rovers
Gus **UHLENBEEK**	F	TOP Oss (Hol)	Ipswich Town
Sergei **YURAN**	F	FC Porto	Moscow Spartak

● SPANISH champions Real Madrid paid an estimated £2.7million for the Colombian international midfielder Fredy Rincon. The 29-year-old former Palmeiras player, who spent last season on loan in Italy at Napoli, has signed a three-year contract.

● VETERAN Real Madrid striker Emilio Butragueno has signed for Mexican First Division newcomers Atletico Celaya. The 32-year-old, who signed a two-year contract, said he would not play for any other Spanish club after spending over a decade at the Bernabeu.

● MEXICO'S FC America are chasing two European players. Sampdoria's veteran defender Marco Rossi, 31, and Eintracht Frankfurt midfielder Maurizio Gaudino, who spent last season on loan at Manchester City, are both wanted by the ambitious Mexicans.

● FORMER Marseille defender Basile Boli ***(pictured below)*** appeared to take a swipe at his former club Rangers after signing a two-year contract with Monaco for an undisclosed fee. He said: "It's good to be with a really big European club again."

● VICENZA, newly-promoted to the Serie A, have signed the Uruguayan duo Marcelo Otero and Gustavo Mendez. Otero, a 24-year-old forward from Penarol, joined Vicenza on loan. Mendez, 24, a defender from Nacional, cost the Italian club a bargain £230,000. The Uruguayans will link up with Vicenza's other foreign siging, Swede Joachim Bjorklund.

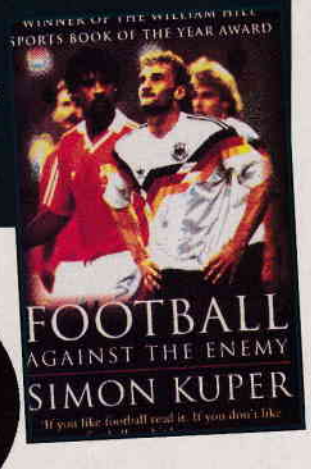
● URUGUAYAN striker Ruben Sosa has joined Borussia Dortmund after three seasons with Internazionale. Dortmund paid £1.3million for the 29-year-old, who reportedly agreed a two-year contract worth £420,000 a year.

● SOUTHEND UNITED have completed the signing of American intrnational defender Mike Lapper. Southend paid £150,000 to the United States Soccer Federation for the 25-year-old. No such luck for Sunderland, however. Their bid to sign goalkeeper Brad Friedel failed due to work permit problems. Leicester have also failed in their bid to obtain a work permit for Australian keeper Zeljko Kalac.

● RUSSIAN striker Nikolai Pisarev has signed a three-year contract with newly-promoted Spanish First Division side Merida. Pisarev lost his place in the Moscow Spartak side when they bought Sergei Yuran from Portuguese champions FC Porto.

REVIEW

A new edition of Simon Kuper's excellent book *Football Against the Enemy* has been published by Phoenix, priced £6.99, with a new, albeit brief, chapter on the 1994 USA World Cup. Kuper, a *WORLD SOCCER* contributor, talked to players, managers, fans and journalists around the world in a bid to discover how national characteristics determine the way different countries play their 'style' of football. The result: an entertaining and incisive book that anyone with the slightest interest in football should read.



"Marco played football like a ballerina . . . like Nureyev with a colossal body, but his ankle eventually couldn't take the strain."
– Rene Marti, the Swiss doctor who treated Marco Van Basten

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

England expects

FA chief executive Graham Kelly has hinted that England could stage a bid to host the 2006 World Cup finals.

Kelly acknowledged the 'possibility' that England could be a candidate to host the 2006 finals if the 1996 European Championship goes well. "We will be keeping our ear to the ground over the next two or three years," Kelly said.

"Obviously I can't predict the future or say what FIFA's policy might be, but we know the 1998 World Cup is going to be in France and the one after that probably in Japan or [South] Korea.

"The next is still open, although I'm not saying, for the sake of a headline, we will get it."

But, England must be considered serious candidates if the Euro '96 finals pass off smoothly. England last hosted the World Cup in 1966, and since then Germany, Spain and Italy have been hosts, leaving little serious opposition to England in Europe, at least.

● FIFA has named a panel of five experts to visit Japan and South Korea to report on their bids to stage the 2002 World Cup.

The delegation will be led by Horst Schmidt, general secretary of the German FA. The team will visit both Asian countries in early November. The other delegates are Solomon Morewa (South African FA president), Hank Steinbrecher (USSF general secretary), Ernie Walker (Scottish FA security expert) and Richard Bunn (International TV Consortium representative).

The group will submit a report to FIFA's executive committee – which will select the hosts – during the first half of 1996.

Hopeful . . . the FA's Graham Kelly

Soccer Cities SEVILLE

Graham Turner on the rivalry that fuels footballing passions in Andalusia

WHEN Real Betis chief executive Manuel Ruiz de Lopera stood up at the recent crisis meeting of the Spanish Football League (*see page 24*) to announce he would be voting for Sevilla to be reinstated in the Spanish First Division, he was described as "a very, very brave man".

Weeks earlier, he and the Sevilla president Luis Cuervas had exchanged punches on a radio show prior to the local derby in one of the manifestations of a cross-city hatred which has generated violent confrontations over the last eight decades.

Many Spaniards try to sell the long-distance sniping between Barcelona and Madrid as the country's sourest variety of grapes. But the footballing passions in sultry Seville explain why the national team, ever since its 3-0 victory there against Portugal in December 1923, has relied on the city's wild, unconditional support for most of its big games.

In June, however, that all changed. A poor crowd, many of them with complimentary or cut-price tickets, jeered Javier Clemente for not fielding the then Betis midfielder Angel Cuellar against Armenia. Spain's next Euro '96 match against Cyprus was diverted to Valencia.

But the *sevilannos* were hardly at fault. The Armenia match came just four days before the Sevilla-Betis derby. Betis were back after three years in the second division and the whole city realised that life lacked buzz without the adrenalin surge generated by the local derby.

Which is why Betis, even though they might have privately been rubbing their hands with glee, were aghast at the idea of Sevilla being expelled from the first division. Life just wouldn't have been the same.

The two clubs were founded when Andalusian society struggled to survive amid feudal divisions of riches and poverty. Unlike Atletico and Real, who could claim to represent different strata of Madrid society, Sevilla and Betis have simply divided the populace, with Betis maybe throwing their cap more overtly at the working classes via a motto 'Viva er Beti manque pierda' – an almost dyslexic translation of 'Long Live Betis even if They Lose'.

Sevilla were founded under the name of Sevillana FC by the British employees of the Seville Water Works Co. Ltd. in October 1905. They adopted white shirts because they were the cheapest.

The rivalry began in turbulent fashion when, two years later, a rebel splinter group provoked a merger between Betis and a club which, while Sevilla chose to use the English word 'Football' in its tile, opted for the Spanish 'Balompie'. In 1914, King Alfonso XIII accepted the honorary presidency and breakaway Betis were allowed to put Real in front of their name. The stripes on their shirts were green "for hope and passion".

There was certainly passion when the two clubs met for the first time on New Year's Day 1916, drew 2-2 and provoked violent incidents throughout the city centre. The die was cast.

Two years later, the cup of hatred flowed over when, after the two local derbies had produced home victories, the authorities decreed a play-off. Key Betis players who were doing military service were told they were confined to barracks. By way of protest, Betis fielded their youth side. They lost 22-0.

It was regarded as no coincidence that the Franco regime marked a golden age for Sevilla, culminating in the solitary League title in 1946 – the year when Betis fell headlong into the Third Division, and stayed there for seven years. Neither did Betis regard it as coincidence that as soon as Franco's death had changed the name from Copa Generalisimo to Copa del Rey, they won the Cup, in 1977.

Betis' persecution complex was heightened by the Civil War. Seville was the first major city to fall to Franco's insurgents and, while Sevilla were allowed to carry on playing, the Betis ground was used as a depot for tanks.

The recent events which led Sevilla to be initially relegated to Division 2B are symptomatic of the chaotic backdrop which has precluded the consistency needed to win titles. Sevilla and Betis are still the most mercurial of clubs, treading the no-man's land between the genius and the clown. But for sheer passion, wit and love of football, nowhere can quite match Seville.

Carlos The

Jackal

A goal on his Serie A debut for Internazionale. The most expensive Brazilian footballer ever. One of the fiercest shots in world football. Roberto Carlos is no ordinary left-back. Brian Homewood profiles one of the summer transfer market's most wanted men

WHEN he began playing professional football for Uniao Sao Joao, Roberto Carlos was most noticeable for being the namesake of Brazil's answer to Julio Iglesias.

Four years later, Roberto Carlos the footballer is famous in his own right. His £4.8m summer transfer to Internazionale was the biggest ever transaction involving a Brazilian club, surpassing even Romario's move back to Flamengo from Barcelona and the £3m sale of Edmundo, 'The Animal', to the same club.

For their money, Internazionale are getting, simply, the best Brazilian playing today, and possibly the best left-back anywhere. He performs his defensive duties impeccably and still finds time to become one of his team's best attacking options, as he has already proved to his new Italian club by scoring on his Serie A debut against Vicenza.

In defence, he times his tackles well and has been fast enough to keep Brazil's quickest attackers under wraps. But it is going forward that he has been most impressive.

The Datafolha, an organisation which provides a bemusing range of statistics for Brazilian newspapers, calculated that Roberto Carlos averaged more shots on goal per game in the Sao Paulo championship than any other player in any position.

According to Datafolha's calculations, he had 57 goal attempts in 16 games to give an average of 3.6 shots per game. Second in the list was his Palmeiras team-mate and striker Rivaldo with 3.3.

Cannonball kid . . . Roberto Carlos is a big hit in Italy

The Datafolha also calculated that he set up an average of one clearcut goalscoring chance for a team-mate per game, putting him sixth in the table for assists.

Nearly all of those shots and chances would have come from his left foot. Roberto Carlos' shot is on a par with Branco's for power and significantly better than Branco's for accuracy. His portfolio includes a stunning goal scored with a 35-yard free-kick earlier this year against Gremio, a late dip deceiving goalkeeper Danrlei.

Despite the price tag, Roberto Carlos can be considered a safe investment compared to some of his compatriots. He is not the sort who is likely to start pining for home at the first winter frost, nor does he share the same dislike for training as certain other Brazilians. He played alongside the explosive Edmundo for nearly two years and admits he became tired of trying to show the Animal how to play a team game.

He says he still enjoys the game, despite the pressures of playing at the top level, and his ambition is to play three World Cups. The one thing that does worry him is the burden of the fee. "People demand more from you. If I misplace one pass, the fans start having a go at me," he said. "Yesterday I read in the paper that I gave up in the game against Gremio [which Gremio won 5-0]. It's not true, but here the fans don't treat you as a professional.

"I haven't thought about being the most expensive Brazilian player. There are excellent players such as Edmundo and I don't know why they weren't sold for more."

Roberto Carlos was born in Garca in the interior of Sao Paulo state in April 1973. He began his professional career in 1990 with Uniao Sao Joao, one of many clubs in the region that churn out talented players, and stayed at the club until the end of 1992.

He then joined Palmeiras and during the two and a half years he spent with them, they were unquestionably the best side in Brazil, winning the Sao Paulo state championship in 1993 and 1994 and the Brazilian national championship in the same two years.

He began his international career at the age of 18, when he played in a 3-0 win over the United States in Fortaleza in a friendly. Carlos Alberto Parreira then made him a regular and he took part in almost every international until the end of the 1993 Copa America in Ecuador, where Brazil reached the quarter-finals.

But when the World Cup qualifiers began immediately afterwards, Roberto Carlos was overlooked, firstly in favour of Branco and then Leonardo. The same players barred his way to a place in the squad for last year's World Cup and he had to wait nearly two years before he pulled on the famous gold shirt again, in a friendly against Israel.

Parreira's decision to stick with Branco for the World Cup in place of Roberto Carlos turned out to be one of his most controversial, especially after Branco's ponderous performance in the final against Italy.

Since playing against Israel, however, Roberto Carlos appears to have made the position his. He was extremely impressive in the four-team Umbro Cup in England, scoring his first goal for his country in the 3-0 win over Japan. Few are likely to doubt his right to the position for a long time to come.

'It is going forward that Roberto Carlos has been most impressive . . . he averaged more shots on goal in the Sao Paulo championship than any other player in any position'

Double Dutch . . . can Ajax retain the Champions Cup?

Cash of the titans

The 1995-96 UEFA Champions League looks set to generate more money for the European game than any previous competition. Keir Radnedge previews some potentially enthralling encounters

SLOWLY, steadily, the name is catching on. It's no longer the European Cup or Champions Cup. It's the Champions League.

UEFA president Lennart Johansson is busy publicising it as the European federation's flagship event – at club level, at least – but such is the concentration of glamour that the competition virtually promotes itself.

This is the foundation of the European League yet to come. In the meantime it not only attracts television coverage and commercial interest like a football pied piper, it also provides a financial guarantee for all European football through UEFA's profit-sharing scheme.

All highly important, of course, but nothing like as alluring a subject as the football itself. What better start, for example, than holders Ajax against former record six-times winners Real Madrid in Amsterdam on September 13? Ferencvaros of Hungary and Grasshopper of Switzerland are clear outsiders in the group.

The tightest of the groups appears to be Group C, in which Juventus face Borussia Dortmund with Scotland's Rangers and former European champions Steaua Bucharest waiting to pounce on any slips.

In group A, French champions Nantes play former trophy-winners Porto of Portugal while Panathinaikos of Greece meet Dynamo Kiev.

Blackburn Rovers aim to make amends for last season's nightmare defeat by Trelleborgs when they kick off their Champions League campaign against former semi-finalists Spartak Moscow, while the Polish sports club, Legia Warsaw, kick off against Norway's Rosenborg Trondheim.

Rosenborg have been competing in Europe since 1965 but have yet to progress beyond the second round.

Paul Gascoigne will take particular interest in Rangers' Champions League opponents. The Juventus tie on October 18 offers him a memorable return to Turin's Stadio delle Alpi, scene of his 'game of tears' for England against West Germany in the 1990 World Cup semi-final.

The matches against Dortmund pitch him against one of his former Lazio team-mates, Karlheinz Riedle – if the German striker has recovered from knee ligament damage (a 'Gascoigne injury') in time.

All Rangers' games will be live on Scottish television with Rangers set to earn a minimum £5million from gate receipts and UEFA prize money.

"We are going to meet some very good sides and it's an exciting draw for everyone at the club," said manager Walter Smith. "Dortmund and Juventus are two clubs who have built up their sides in recent years, culminating in championship wins. I'd rate them to be as strong as anybody in the European Cup this year."

Rangers odds immediately went out to 20-1 to win the Champions League. Juventus – despite the summer departure of Roberto Baggio for Milan – are the 11-4 favourites, with Dortmund fifth at 7-1. Rangers can take refuge in their European history, having beaten Juventus memorably in 1978 and Dortmund in 1982, but both clubs boast all-star line-ups.

In Juve's case that means Alessandro Del Piero, Gianluca Vialli, Fabrizio Ravanelli and Portuguese midfielder Paulo Sousa; in Dortmund's

case Germany's Andy Moller, Jurgen Kohler, Matthias Sammer and then Riedle in a cosmopolitan attack from which coach Ottmar Hitzfeld must choose between Riedle, Switzerland's Stephane Chapuisat - also recovering from knee surgery - record domestic signing Heiko Herrlich and the Uruguayan veteran Ruben Sosa, signed from Internazionale.

A row with the Turin council led to Juventus taking European games away from the Stadio delle Alpi to the San Siro in Milan last season, but the long-running dispute has now been settled. Juventus vice-chairman Roberto Bettega, the former Italian international who played against Rangers in 1978, said: "Playing at Ibrox will be the toughest game in the section along with going to Dortmund. Rangers will make it very difficult for visiting teams."

Blackburn are not in the most glitzy group but their resolve and tactical appreciation will be keenly tested by Spartak and Legia, while Rosenborg will hope to extend the Norwegian jinx over England's best.

Blackburn will send football director Kenny Dalglish on spying trips. Newly-promoted managerial successor Ray Harford said: "Kenny has a wide and extensive knowledge of European soccer. He will travel to watch teams on our behalf and his background information will be invaluable. We have got to this position very quickly and it's a learning curve. Some of the teams, like Ajax, Real Madrid and Juventus, have been involved at this level for up to 20 years. It's a way of life to them, but it's totally new for us.

"Ideally we would have liked to have signed a couple of top quality players before the European deadline, but that was not to be. We did make inquiries but were turned down and we won't splash silly money around."

Harford's assistant Tony Parkes added: "We had a bad experience against Trelleborgs last season, but that won't affect our positive frame of mind. We are the English champions and the English game is still rated very highly. But it's going to take a lot of homework over the next few weeks."

Spartak, first up at Ewood on September 18, have already invested heavily, bringing home Russian internationals Sergei Yuran and Vasili Kulkov from Bobby Robson's FC Porto.

Dalglish, who won three European Cup medals as a player with Liverpool, had handed over to Graeme Souness when the Reds were hammered 6-2 on aggregate by Spartak in the second round of the Cup-winners Cup in 1992. Controversial goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar was sent off as Liverpool crashed 4-2 in the Moscow snows, which certainly should have fallen by the time Rovers go there on November 22.

Legia Warsaw, who have a notorious hooligan following, provide back-to-back opposition on October 18 and November 1. They did the domestic double in both the last two seasons with the main threat coming from striker Jerzy Prodbrozny, twice his country's top goalscorer.

But, with all due respect to Blackburn, Legia and the rest, it is Groups C and D which will attract the greatest attention.

NOT FORGETTING . . .

UEFA'S seeding system, tightly drawn now so as to prevent anomalies, meant that the big names generally avoided each other in the first-round draws for the Cup-winners Cup and the UEFA Cup.

Everton were the club cruellest hit by the post-Heysel ban, having won both the Cup-winners Cup and the English title in 1985. Now they are back with an easy-looking task.

Iceland should bring back happy memories for manager Joe Royle, who scored four goals as Everton beat Keflavik 9-2 on aggregate in the Champions Cup first round in September 1970. Ironically, Reykjavik provided the opposition for Liverpool on their European debut in 1964, which yielded an 11-1 aggregate win for the Merseysiders. Celtic face the Georgians of Dinamo Batumi while Irish Cup-winners Glenavon have little chance against Werder Bremen.

Ties which look tight in the UEFA Cup include the clash between Leeds United and Monaco, Malmo's revenge mission against Nottingham Forest, and Bayern Munich's Russian test against Lokomotiv Moscow. The two top teams in the competition, Barcelona and Milan, were both handed easy passages to the second round. Milan face Zaglebie Lubin of Poland and Barcelona meet Hapoel Beersheba of Israel.

Malmo, then under Englishman Bob Houghton, were the opposition for the first of Nottingham Forest's two Champions Cup wins in 1979 and 1980 - beaten by Trevor Francis's diving header in Munich.

That game was current manager Frank Clark's last for the club and he said: "That was one of the highlights of my career and we are very much looking forward to meeting them again."

Captain Stuart Pearce, who has never played in Europe with a club side, said: "Our supporters will be more excited about facing Malmo than we are, but I'm sure we'll be ready for it when the time comes."

Howard Wilkinson welcomed Leeds' trip to Monaco, once graced by Glenn Hoddle and Jurgen Klinsmann. Monaco did not join in this summer's continent-wide spending spree and now questions are being asked of their new manager, former France midfielder Jean Tigana. Liverpool, launching their 24th European campaign, should be wary of Russian League-leaders Spartak Vladikavkaz, from the southern republic of Northern Osetia.

Manchester United also face an awkward hazard against Rotor Volgograd. Manager Alex Ferguson said: "It could be worse. There are so many big-name teams in the UEFA Cup I didn't want to get paired against them. There are a lot from Sweden, Finland and Denmark who we know about and wanted to avoid."

One minor change in the UEFA Cup regulations this season may help weaken the Italy-Germany domination of the competition. In the past, clubs from the same country have been kept apart until the quarter-finals. Now the enforced separation will not be guaranteed beyond the second round.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

GROUP A

Sep 13: Nantes v FC Porto, Kiev Dynamo v Panathinaikos
Sep 27: Panathinaikos v Nantes, FC Porto v Kiev Dynamo
Oct 18: Nantes v Kiev Dynamo, FC Porto v Panathinaikos
Nov 1: Panathinaikos v FC Porto, Kiev Dynamo v Nantes
Nov 22: Panathinaikos v Kiev Dynamo, FC Porto v Nantes
Dec 6: Nantes v Panathinaikos, Kiev Dynamo v FC Porto

GROUP B

Sep 13: Legia Warsaw v Rosenborg, Blackburn v Moscow Spartak
Sep 27: Moscow Spartak v Legia Warsaw, Rosenborg v Blackburn
Oct 18: Legia Warsaw v Blackburn, Rosenborg v Moscow Spartak
Nov 1: Moscow Spartak v Rosenborg, Blackburn v Legia Warsaw
Nov 22: Moscow Spartak v Blackburn, Rosenborg v Legia Warsaw
Dec 6: Legia Warsaw v Moscow Spartak, Blackburn v Rosenborg

GROUP C

Sep 13: Steaua Bucharest v Rangers, Borussia Dortmund v Juventus
Sep 27: Rangers v Borussia Dortmund, Juventus v Steaua Bucharest
Oct 18: Borussia Dortmund v Steaua Bucharest, Juventus v Rangers
Nov 1: Rangers v Juventus, Steaua Bucharest v Borussia Dortmund
Nov 22: Rangers v Steaua Bucharest, Juventus v Borussia Dortmund
Dec 6: Borussia Dortmund v Rangers, Steaua Bucharest v Juventus

GROUP D

Sep 13: Ajax v Real Madrid, Grasshopper v Ferencvaros
Sep 27: Ferencvaros v Ajax, Real Madrid v Grasshopper
Oct 18: Ajax v Grasshopper, Real Madrid v Ferencvaros
Nov 1: Ferencvaros v Real Madrid, Grasshopper v Ajax
Nov 22: Ferencvaros v Grasshopper, Real Madrid v Ajax
Dec 6: Ajax v Ferencvaros, Grasshopper v Real Madrid

CUP-WINNERS CUP

DAG Liepaja (Lat) v Feyenoord (Hol)
Club Brugge (Bel) v Shaktyor Donetsk (Ukr)
Dynamo Batumi (Geo) v *Celtic* (Sco)
Hradec Kralove (Cze) v FC Copenhagen (Den)
Lokomotiv Sofia (Bul) v Halmstads BK (Swe)
Reykjavik (Ice) v *Everton* (Eng)
Inter Bratislava (Slovak) v Real Zaragoza (Spa)
Rapid Wien (Aut) v Petrolul Ploiesti (Rom)
Molde FK (Nor) v Paris St Germain (Fra)
Moscow Dynamo (Rus) v Ararat Yerevan (Arm)
AEK Athens (Gre) v Sion (Swi)
Borussia Monchengladbach (Ger) v FC Sileks (Mac)
FC Teuta (Alb) v Parma (Ita)
Zalgiris Vilnius (Lit) v Trabzonspor (Tur)
Sporting Lisbon (Por) v Maccabi Haifa (Isr)
La Coruna (Spa) v Apoel Nicosia (Cyp)

Matches to be played on September 14th & 28th

UEFA CUP

Olympiakos (Gre) v Maribor Branik (Sloven)
Barcelona (Spa) v Hapoel Beersheba (Isr)
Lazio (Ita) v Omonia Nicosia (Cyp)
Strasbourg (Fra) v Ujpesti TE (Hun)
Milan (Ita) v Zaglebie Lubin (Pol)
Bordeaux (Fra) v Vardar Skopje (Mac)
Vitoria Guimaraes (Por) v Standard (Bel)
Fenerbahce (Tur) v Real Betis (Spa)
Rotor Volgograd (Rus) v *Manchester United* (Eng)
MyPa-47 (Fin) v PSV Eindhoven (Hol)
Sparta Prague (Cze) v Silkeborg (Den)
Lens (Fra) v Avenir Beggen (Lux)
Lierse (Bel) v Benfica (Por)
Neuchatel Xamax (Swi) v AS Roma (Ita)
Sevilla (Spa) v Botev Plovdiv (Bul)
Roda JC Kerkrade (Hol) v Olimpija Ljubljana (Sloven)
Bayern Munich (Ger) v Moscow Lokomotiv (Rus)
FK Austria (Aut) v Minsk Dynamo (Bye)
Malmo (Swe) v *Nottingham Forest* (Eng)
Chernomorets (Ukr) v Widzew Lodz (Pol)
Monaco (Fra) v *Leeds United* (Eng)
Brondby (Den) v Lillestrom (Nor)
Raith Rovers v IA Akranes (Ice)
SC Freiburg (Ger) v Slavia Prague (Cze)
Slovan Bratislava (Slovak) v Kaiserslautern (Ger)
Lugano (Swi) v Internazionale (Ita)
Farense (Por) v Lyon (Fra)
Levski Sofia (Bul) v Eendracht Aalst (Bel)
Werder Bremen (Ger) v *Glenavon* (NI)
Viking Stavanger (Nor) v Auxerre (Fra)
Spartak Vladikavkaz (Rus) v *Liverpool* (Eng)
Zimbru Chisinau (Mol) v RAF Riga (Lat)

1st leg - September 12th, 2nd leg - September 26th

Panathinaikos

WITH the difficult task of qualifying for the Champions League in war-torn Croatia now behind them, Panathinaikos of Athens can now concentrate on the task of representing Greece in Europe's premier club competition.

"No, I don't have a magic wand. I have my philosophy and I won't change it for anything. Perhaps it's my fate to have lived a lot more joyful moments than sad ones," Argentinian coach Juan Rocha said after his team had drawn 1-1 with Hajduk Split in Croatia to qualify for the Champions League.

Rocha knows that Panathinaikos are unlikely to equal their 1971 performance, when they played Ajax in the Champions Cup Final at Wembley, the only Greek team to go that far.

"The good thing for me is that the players know what they have to do on the pitch. They are veterans and showed with their conduct why Panathinaikos is a big team," Rocha said.

Panathinaikos owner George Vardinoyiannis said his team must come down to earth after their impressive performance in Croatia, shortly after announcing that each regular player would receive up to seven million drachmas (£12,000) in bonuses for qualifying for the Champions League.

Midfielder Juan Jose Borelli, the 25-year-old Argentinian who scored the away goal against Hajduk, said after his performance in the Copa America that it was time for him to celebrate in the Champions League. "It's a European festival and should be celebrated with good performances. The year started off well for me and I hope it continues that way," he said.

Other key players for Panathinaikos include Krzystof Warzycha, the leading scorer in the Greek First Divsion last season, Polish goalkeeper Jozef Wandzik and veteran international midfielder Nikos Nioplias. Nioplias, Ioannis Kalitzakis, Spiros Maragos and Dimitris Saravakos were all members of the 1994 Greek World Cup squad.

LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

SQUAD

Goalkeepers		Alexandros Alexoudis*	20.06.72
Jozef Wandzik* (Pol)	13.08.63	Georgios H. Georgiadis	08.03.72
Antonios Nikopolidis	14.01.71	Andreas Lagonikakis	04.06.72
Defenders		Spiridon Maragos*	20.02.67
Efstratios Apostolakis*	11.05.64	Nikolaos Nioplias*	17.01.65
Georgios S. Georgiadis	30.01.71	Juan Jose Borelli* (Arg)	08.11.70
Ioannis Kalitzakis*	17.02.66	Dimitrios Markos*	31.01.71
Georgios Kapouranis*	20.05.66	Marinos Ouzounidis*	10.10.68
Athanasios Kolitsidakis*	20.11.66	**Forwards**	
Leonidas Christodoulou	07.08.67	Georgios Donis*	29.10.69
Midfielders		Krzystof Warzycha* (Pol)	17.11.64
Georgios Alexopoulos	07.02.77	**Coach:** Juan Ramon Rocha (Arg)	

Nantes

NANTES will be making their sixth appearance in the Champions Cup, but they have never been beyond the second round. Their Champions League group offers plenty of challenge, but not an insurmountable task.

Nantes, who lost only once in the French League last season, have made a solid start to the new campaign, lying fourth after the opening six matches.

Karembeu and Loko, two of Nantes' most potent attacking threats, have gone, but Chad striker Japhet N'Doram and French international Nicolas Oudec are putting together an impressive partnership. N'Doram is already at the top of the French scoring charts with five goals in six outings.

Supplying the ammunition for Nantes' European challenge will be Polish winger Roman Kosecki, signed from Atletico Madrid for £1million. "I might have joined Kaiserslautern, but the prospect of playing in the Champions League for Nantes was too strong," said Kosecki, capped 66 times for Poland.

Coach Jean-Claude Suaudeau has been at the club since 1982, and has a pretty settled line-up. David Marraud should start in goal, with Jean-Marc Chanelet and Christophe Pignol at full-back. Eddy Capron and Eric Decroix are the likely centre-backs, though Laurent Guyot and Serge Le Dizet also are in contention for places in the defence.

In midfield Jean-Michel Ferri and Jocelyn Gourvennec, signed from Rennes during the summer, could occupy the centre, with Kosecki and French international Reynald Pedros raiding down the wings. Oudec and N'Doram will play in attack, supported by those wingers.

Gourvennec is injured at the moment and could miss the opening group games. In his place Suaudeau should call upon Zaire-born midfielder Claude Makelele, who recently made his debut for France against Norway, as well as several mid-summer signings, including midfielder Bruno Carotti (from Montpelier) and striker Laurent Peyrelade (Brive).

JOHN KELLY

SQUAD

Goalkeepers		Claude Makelele*	18.02.73
Dominique Casagrande	08.05.71	Bruno Carotti	30.09.72
David Marraud	03.08.64	Jocelyn Gourvennec	22.03.72
Defenders		David Garcion	27.09.73
Eddy Capron	15.01.71	**Forwards**	
Jean-Marc Chanelet	23.07.68	Japhet N'Doram* (Chad)	27.02.66
Eric Decroix	07.03.69	Nicolas Ouedec*	28.10.71
Laurent Guyot	17.12.69	Reynald Pedros*	10.10.71
Serge Le Dizet	27.06.64	Laurent Peyrelade	07.04.70
Midfielders		Roman Kosecki* (Pol)	15.02.66
Bemoit Cauet	02.05.69	Franck Renou	19.11.73
Jean-Michel Ferri*	07.02.69	**Coach:** Jean-Claude Suaudeau.	

FC Porto

BOBBY ROBSON'S Portuguese champions must fancy their chances of joining Nantes in the quarter-finals.

The backbone of the side which secured the title in such impressive fashion – one defeat, 73 goals for, only 15 against in 34 games – remains largely the same, with the main changes being among the foreign contingent.

Russian internationals Vasili Kulkov and Sergei Yuran have returned to Moscow, with their replacements being the Hungarian international Peter Lipcsei and Polish striker Grzegorz Mielcarski, signed from Widzew Lodz.

The backbone is provided by Portugal keeper Vitor Baia, naturalised Brazilian Emerson in the centre of midfield, and veteran Rui Barros, the link man between midfield and attack.

Of Porto's many foreigners, Brazilian centre-back Aloisio is certain to start if fit, while Lipcsei is likely to occupy one of the midfield berths. Mielcarski, still finding his way in Portuguese football, may lose out to Antonio Folha, leaving Yugoslav striker Luubinko Drulovic as Porto's other foreign option.

Robson's enforced absence – he had to travel to London for surgery on his nose – has not stopped Porto making a winning start to the season. They won their opening game, against Sporting Lisbon, with two goals by Domingos, who then scored the decider in their second League game against Gil Vicente. Domingos, the club's top scorer last season, also scored twice against Cup-winners Sporting in the Portuguese Supercup, which will now be decided by a third match.

Porto are no strangers to success in Europe, having won the Champions Cup in 1987, thanks to victory over Bayern Munich in Vienna. The squad is a balanced mix of experienced players such as Barros, Domingos and Joao Pinto and youngsters such as Jorge Costa, Emerson and Fohla, guided by a manager with experience at all levels of European competition.

Many clubs would envy Robson's choice.

JOHN KELLY

SQUAD

Goalkeepers		Jorge Couto*	01.07.71
Vitor Baia*	15.10.69	Carlos Secretario*	12.05.70
Vitor Novoa	17.08.62	Emerson	12.04.72
Defenders		Peter Lipcsei* (Hun)	28.03.72
Joao [Domingos] Pinto*	21.11.61	Rui Barros*	24.11.65
Aloisio* (Bra)	16.08.63	**Forwards**	
Jorge Costa*	14.10.71	Domingos*	02.01.69
Rui Jorge*	27.03.73	Ljubinko Drulovic (Yug)	11.09.68
Paulinho Santos*	21.11.70	Antonio Folha*	21.05.71
Paulo Lino* (Ang)	21.07.71	Edmilson (Bra)	17.09.71
Midfielders		Grzegorz Mielcarski* (Pol)	19.03.71
Jose Semedo*	05.03.65	**Coach:** Bobby Robson (Eng).	

Kiev Dynamo

KIEV DYNAMO, the only Ukrainian team ever to have won the Supreme Soviet League, have a fine record in Europe, although they will want to improve on last season's performance.

Then, they were paired with Paris SG, Bayern Munich and Moscow Spartak in Group B of the Champions League and managed only one victory, in the all-Soviet opening clash in Kiev against the Russian champions. A capacity crowd of 100,000 roared Kiev to victory, but Dynamo will need more than vocal support to overcome Nantes, Porto and Panathinaikos this time around.

Coach Jozef Sabo, who also doubles up as the Ukraine national team coach, has no worries over UEFA's three-foreigners rule. Kiev have no foreign players in their squad. In fact, the majority of the first-team squad play for the national team.

Striker Victor Leonenko is Kiev's main man. He scored three of their five goals in last season's Champions League and was Ukraine Footballer of the Year in 1993.

Leonenko is likely to be partnered in attack by Pavel Shkapenko, an attacking midfielder who has been one of Kiev's leading marksmen over the past three seasons.

Three of the regular back four – Luzhny, Bezhenar and Shmatovalenko – are Ukrainian internationals, while young Yuri Dmitrulin, an Under-21 cap, looks set for full international honours in the near future.

The midfield is packed with internatiional talent, though versatile Vitali Kosovski, who can operate as a winger or full-back, may occupy the left-side.

Kiev, who have won the Cup-winners Cup twice, have suffered in recent times from being by far the biggest fish in an extremely small pond. The Champions League gives them a chance to test altogether deeper waters . . . whether they sink or swim remains to be seen.

GAVIN HAMILTON

SQUAD

Goalkeepers		Pavel Shkapenko*	16.12.72
Alexander Shovkovski	02.01.75	Dmitri Mikhailenko*	13.07.73
Andrei Kovtun	28.02.68	Vitali Kosovski	11.08.73
Defenders		Andrei Shevchenko*	29.09.76
Oleg Luzhny*	05.08.68	Yuri Maksimov*	08.12.68
Sergei Shmatovalenko*	29.01.67	Yevgeni Pokhlebaev*	25.11.71
Sergei Bezhenar*	09.08.70	**Forwards**	
Vladislav Vashchuk	02.01.75	Viktor Leonenko*	05.10.69
Alexander Golovko*	06.01.72	Sergei Skachenko*	18.11.72
Yuri Dmitrulin	10.02.75	Sergei Rebrov*	03.06.74
Midfielders		Sergei Konovalov*	01.03.72
Yuri Kalitvintsev*	05.05.68	**Coach:** Jozef Sabo.	

Moscow Spartak

MOSCOW SPARTAK have emerged as the dominant force in 'new' Russian club football and, as three consecutive UEFA Champions League appearances testify, important players on the European stage.

Spartak reached the semi-finals of the Champions Cup in 1991 and the semi-finals of the Cup-winners Cup in 1993, thus guaranteeing them a place among the top eight seeds and automatic entry into the Champions League both this season and last.

This season they have been strengthened by the return of three experienced internationals. Goalkeeper Stanislav Cherchesov returns from Dynamo Dresden, while midfielder Vasili Kulkov and striker Sergei Yuran are back after a successful spell in Portugal.

Yuran will partner Valeri Schmarov, who gained valuable experience in the Bundesliga with Karlsruhe and Arminia Bielefeld before returning home this year. Other attacking options include veteran internationals Sergei Rodionov and Mukhsin Mukhamadiev, Andrei Tikhonov and Ukrainian Sergei Nagornyak, signed from Spartak's 'nursery' club, Niva Ternopil.

Several members of the side are well known on the world stage after representing Russia at USA '94. Captain Viktor Onopko, Russia's Footballer of the Year in 1992, was particularly impressive in the US. He will form the heart of the defence, along with international team-mate Ilia Tsimbalar.

The coach, Oleg Romantsev, a star pupil of Spartak's legendary manager Konstantin Beskov, also coaches the Russian national team, by popular demand. Everton's Andrei Kanchelskis was one of the group of players who called for Romantsev to replace Pavel Sadyrin during USA '94, and the players duly got their way. Consequently, Romantsev knows he has the respect of his players, while Spartak benefit from having a side packed with internationals.

JOHN KELLY

SQUAD

Goalkeepers		Dmitri Alenichev	20.10.72
Stanislav Cherchesov*	02.09.63	Vasili Kulkov*	11.06.66
Dmitri Tyapushkin* (Ukr)	06.11.64	Valeri Kechinov	05.08.74
Defenders		Andrei Piatnitski*	29.09.67
Andrei Afanasiev*	15.05.64	**Forwards**	
Viktor Onopko*	14.10.69	Sergei Rodionov*	03.09.62
Ilia Tsimbalar*	17.06.69	Mukhsin Mukhamadiev*	21.07.66
Dmitri Khlestov*	21.01.71	Andrei Tikhonov*	16.10.70
Yuri Nikiforov*	16.09.70	Sergei Yuran*	11.06.69
Andrei Ivanov*	06.04.67	Sergei Nagornyak* (Ukr)	05.09.71
Midfielders		Valeri Schmarov*	23.02.65
Andrei Konovalov	13.09.74	**Coach:** Oleg Romantsev.	

Legia Warsaw

LEGIA WARSAW pulled off one of the major shocks in the preliminary round, knocking out Sweden's IFK Gothenburg, last season's quarter-finalists and conquerors of Manchester United.

Legia did the domestic double in 1994 and again last season, although the party was spoiled by serious crowd trouble at the Cup Final. Consequently, security will be extremely tight when Blackburn, Rosenborg and Spartak visit the foreboding Wojska Polskiego stadium this autumn.

Two of Legia's leading players will be familiar to supporters in the North-West. Marek Jozwiak and Leszek Pisz were in the Legia side which lost to Manchester United in the semi-finals of the 1991 Cup-winners Cup. Jozwiak will not want to remember the home game with United – he was sent off just before half-time for a professional foul.

Defensively, Legia have bags of experience but not much international recognition. However, in midfield, coach Pawel Janas can choose from eight Polish internationals. Those likely to make the team include local-born Jacek Bednarz, record signing Grzegorz Lewandowski (from Spain's Logrones), playmaker Pisz and his ideal partner Radoslaw Michalski, whose recent impressive form has earned him a place in Poland's European Championship squad.

Striker Jerzy Podbrozny is the fans' favourite, and with good reason. He was Poland's top scorer in 1992 and 1993, while with Lech Poznan, and led Legia's challenge last season with 15 goals and 11 assists. Podbrozny will be partnered by Cezary Kucharski, the young striker who helped Switzerland's Aarau to the League title in 1994. His 19 goals in 49 League games for Aarau suggest he will be an ideal foil for Podbrozny.

Another option is Andrzej Kubica, the 23-year-old striker who has already gained experience in Austria with both Viennese clubs, Rapid and FK.

Realistically though, Legia are unlikely to progress from this group given the opposition facing them, though the games with Rosenborg may be productive.

GAVIN HAMILTON

SQUAD

Goalkeepers		Grzegorz Lewandowski*	01.09.69
Grzegorz Szamotulski	13.05.76	Radoslaw Michalski*	21.09.69
Tomasz Borkowski	05.05.76	Jacek Bednarz*	05.06.67
Defenders		Marcin Jalocha*	17.03.71
Zbigniew Mandziejewicz	05.04.62	Tomasz Wieszczycki*	21.12.71
Piotr Mosor	28.03.62	Ryszard Staniek*	13.03.71
Marek Jozwiak*	21.08.67	**Forwards**	
Jacek Zielinski	10.10.67	Jerzy Podbrozny*	17.12.66
Krzysztof Ratajczyk	09.11.73	Tomasz Unton	11.11.70
Midfielders		Cezary Kucharski*	17.02.72
Leszek Pisz*	18.12.66	Andrzej Kubica*	07.07.72
Adam Fedoruk*	11.12.66	**Coach:** Pawel Janas.	

Blackburn Rovers

BLACKBURN ROVERS, making their first appearance in the Champions Cup, escaped with a relatively easy draw, but are not expected to win the trophy.

At least, not according to coach Ray Harford. "To be recognised as one of the top clubs in Britain and hopefully Europe you need eight or nine years," Harford conceded. "We have got here after just three seasons in the Premiership.

"I think it is unrealistic to expect us to win the European Cup. It is part of the learning process. We learned from losing to Trelleborgs last year and we can learn something from the Champions League."

This may, or may not, be a piece of Euro-kidology from Harford, but his side are expected to qualify from Group B.

Rovers have made a shaky start to the defence of their Premiership title, losing three of their first four matches, but still should be good enough to reach the quarter-finals out of this group.

Harford has none of the 'too many foreigners' selection problems which dogged Manchester United last season, and could put out an all-English XI if he wished. Certainly the England contingent of Tim Flowers, Graeme Le Saux, Stuart Ripley, David Batty, Tim Sherwood, Chris Sutton and Alan Shearer are sure to play if fit. Scottish centre-back Colin Hendry is another certain starter, and he is likely to be partnered by Ian Pearce. That leaves the right-back slot, contested by Ireland's Jeff Kenna and Norway's Henning Berg, and the left midfield role, which is between new signing Matt Holmes and Scotland's Kevin Gallacher.

Other options include versatile defender/midfielder Paul Warhurst, striker Mike Newell, winger Jason Wilcox (currently injured), defender Mark Atkins, and goalkeeper Bobby Mimms – all English.

If they have learned their lesson from the defeat by Trelleborgs last season, Rovers should do enough to put a smile on Kenny Dalglish's face.

JOHN KELLY

SQUAD

Goalkeepers		David Batty*	02.12.68
Tim Flowers*	03.02.67	Matthew Holmes	01.08.69
Bobby Mimms	12.10.63	Tim Sherwood	06.02.69
Defenders		Paul Warhurst	26.09.69
Jeff Kenna* (Ire)	227.08.70	Jason Wilcox	15.07.71
Henning Berg* (Nor)	01.09.69	**Forwards**	
Colin Hendry* (Sco)	07.12.65	Kevin Gallacher (Sco)	23.11.66
Graeme Le Saux*	17.10.68	Stuart Ripley*	20.11.67
Ian Pearce	07.05.74	Alan Shearer*	13.08.70
Nicky Marker	03.05.65	Chris Sutton	10.03.73
Midfielders		Mike Newell	27.01.65
Mark Atkins	14.08.68	**Manager:** Ray Harford.	

Rosenborg

NORWEGIAN clubs have rarely made much impression in European competitions, but that could change this season.

Former national skipper Rune Bratseth, manager of Rosenborg Trondheim, claimed after his team's victory over Besiktas in the preliminary round: "We have a real chance of going through to the quarter-finals." And he was not joking.

Rosenborg have a core of experienced internationals, led by Ola By Rise – a sports journalist when not keeping goal – and reinforced by a striker who has suddenly blossomed, Harald Brattback. He is in his second spell with the club, returning from Bodo/Glimt and becoming top scorer in the country last season with 17 goals from only 22 games.

Brattback also scored in both legs of the win over Besiktas, when his team showed a surprising mixture of strength and sophistication.

The other regular striker is Jahn Ivar Jakobsen, an international regular for seven years despite a lack of height that earned him the nickname 'Mini'.

Other key figures include two of the midfielders, Roar Strand, also back with the club he once left, and Karl-Petter Loken, who recently gained a degree in engineering, not as unusual a feat as it might be in other countries. The city has a university with a worldwide reputation, which helps to attract an intelligent breed of footballer intent on learning as well as playing.

Bratseth claims that his part-timers are capable of causing some surprises, and has warned off foreign clubs showing interest in his squad. "The days when we let men go for tiny fees are long gone. Our national squad is now among the strongest in Europe, and transfer fees reflect that."

The Rosenborg club, founded in 1917, had to wait until the 1960s for success, but have made up for lost time in recent seasons.They have won 15 national trophies in 34 years, nine championships and six cups, but eight of those have come in the past seven seasons.

OLA PREVIDD

SQUAD

Goalkeepers		**Midfielders**	
Ola By Rise*	14.11.60	Roar Strand*	02.02.70
Jorn Jamtfall	24.07.66	Tom Kare Staurvik	13.02.70
Defenders		Karl-Petter Loken*	14.08.66
Bjorn Otto Bragstad	05.01.71	Bent Skammelsrud*	18.05.66
Jon Olav Hjelde	30.04.72	Jahn Ivar Jakobsen*	08.11.65
Erik Hoftun	03.03.69	**Forwards**	
Bjorn Tore Kvarme	17.06.72	Harald Brattbakk	01.02.71
Arne Winsnes	27.04.74	Vegard Heggem	13.07.75
Espen Solheim*	18.03.76	Steffen Iversen	10.11.76
Stale Stensaas	07.07.71	Trond Soltvedt	15.02.67
Jan Halvor Halvorsen*	08.03.63	**Coach:** Nils Arne Eggen.	

Rangers

WHO do I leave out? It's the question Rangers manager Walter Smith will face every time he sits down to ponder his team selection before every Champions League match.

Having the embarrassment of riches available to Smith is a situation envied by most managers but it is one which will cause intense problems for the Ibrox boss as he wrestles with UEFA's 'three foreigners' restriction.

The offloading of Pieter Huistra and Basile Boli may have alleviated the position to some extent but Rangers still have a total of eight players in their first team squad who are regarded as 'non-Scots'.

Assuming freedom from injury and suspension, it is likely that the chosen three will comprise Brian Laudrup, Mark Hateley and close-season signing Paul Gascoigne. This will mean seats in the stand for Alexei Mikhailichenko (Ukraine), Gordan Petric (former Yugoslavia), Trevor Steven (England), new signing Oleg Salenko (Russia) and Australian hardman Craig Moore.

Of the overseas octet, Dane Laudrup is without doubt the key performer. Hateley's power in the air is a major weapon no matter where he plays and Gascoigne, born less than 50 minutes from the Scottish border, has already demonstrated that he will fit in with minimum inconvenience.

Of the home grown players available to Smith, three stand out as possible key performers – and, ironically, two were born in England.

Goalkeeper Andy Goram proved his value against Anorthosis Famagusta in the preliminary round, despite a wave of recent personal problems. Striker Ally McCoist was welcomed back to the Scotland fold after an 18-month exile – and responded in typical fashion by heading home the only goal of the game after going on as a late substitute.

In midfield the silky touches of Gascoigne and Laudrup will be complemented by the gritty tenacity of Leeds-born Stuart McCall, whose ball-winning abilities form an essential component in the Rangers engine room.

ALAN FAIRLEY

SQUAD

Goalkeepers		Neil Murray	21.02.73
Andy Goram*	13.04.64	Ian Ferguson*	15.03.67
Billy Thomson*	10.02.58	Alexei Mikhailichenko* (Ukr)	30.03.63
Defenders		Paul Gascoigne* (Eng)	27.05.67
Stephen Wright*	27.08.71	**Forwards**	
David Robertson*	17.10.68	Ally McCoist*	24.09.62
Gordan Petric (Yug)	30.07.69	Charlie Miller	18.03.76
Richard Gough*	05.04.62	Oleg Salenko* (Rus)	25.10.69
Alan McLaren*	04.01.71	Mark Hateley* (Eng)	07.11.61
Midfielders		Gordon Durie*	06.12.65
Ian Durrant*	29.10.66	Brian Laudrup* (Den)	22.02.69
Stuart McCall*	10.06.64	**Coach:** Walter Smith.	

Borussia Dortmund

GERMAN CHAMPIONS Borussia Dortmund were the first German club to win a European trophy, in 1966, when they beat Liverpool in the Cup-winners Cup Final at Hampden Park, Glasgow.

Last season's title triumph was Dortmund's fourth in all, but their first in over two decades. The championship was clinched in dramatic style on the last day of the season when they defeated Hamburg 2-0 to overhaul Werder Bremen, who went down 3-1 at Bayern Munich.

Dortmund's revival is due, in no small part, to Matthias Sammer. He returned to Germany from Internazionale in a £3million move in early 1993, and has been outstanding as an advanced libero ever since.

Following a second-place finish in 1992, Dortmund have instituted a policy of buying the best, and this has yielded a rich dividend. This summer, Jurgen Kohler was bought from Juventus, Uruguayan striker Ruben Sosa arrived from Inter. Czech international Patrik Berger was signed from Slavia Prague, while exciting young forward Heiko Herrlich joined from Borussia Monchengladbach after a protracted row over contracts.

These outstanding players have been added to an already-talented squad, which includes six German internationals, who were unlucky to lose to Juventus in last year's UEFA Cup semi-final. The Italians had beaten Dortmund 6-1 on aggregate in the 1993 final, and the link between the clubs is maintained by Brazilian centre-back Julio Cesar, a former Juve player.

Dortmund demonstrated their resiliance in earlier rounds of last year's UEFA Cup, scoring twice in the last four minutes of extra time to knock out Spain's Deportivo La Coruna, and eliminating Italy's Lazio with a last-minute winner.

With Karlheinz Rieldle and Stephane Chapuisat injured, Herrlich and Sosa look set to occupy the attacking positions, with Andreas Moller, back with Dortmund after a spell at Juve, supporting them from midfield.

When Dortmund meet Juve, it really is a gathering of old friends.

GAVIN HAMILTON

SQUAD

Goalkeepers		Thomas Franck	24.02.71
Stefan Klos	16.08.71	Steffen Freund	19.01.70
Wolfgang De Beer	02.01.64	Andreas Moller*	02.09.67
Defenders		Knut Reinhardt*	27.04.68
Julio Cesar* (Bra)	08.03.63	Stefan Reuter*	16.10.66
Martin Kree	27.01.65	Michael Zorc*	25.08.62
Marco Kurz	16.05.69	**Forwards**	
Gunter Kutowski	02.08.65	Stephane Chapuisat* (Swi)	28.06.69
Jurgen Kohler*	06.10.65	Karlheinz Riedle*	16.09.65
Matthias Sammer*	05.09.67	Ruben Sosa* (Uru)	25.04.66
Midfielders		Heiko Herrlich*	03.12.71
Patrik Berger* (Cze)	10.11.73	**Coach:** Ottmar Hitzfeld	

Juventus

"THE draw didn't go well for us at all . . . We've ended up in the most difficult group of all, given the technical, physical and historical worth of the clubs involved"

Thus did Juventus president Roberto Bettega react to his side's Champions League draw. Inevitably, it was Borussia Dortmund who prompted the most negative thoughts in Juventus minds. Even though the Italian champions have beaten the German side in two of the last three UEFA Cup competitions, defeating them in the 1993 Final and in the 1995 semi-final, the hard fought nature of those games has not been forgotten in Turin.

On top of that, there is the consideration that Borussia could field as many as four former Juventus players – Brazilian defender Julio Cesar, defender Jurgen Kohler and midfielders Stefan Reuter and Andy Moeller.

That the ex-Juve quartet might be out to prove a point hardly makes for pleasant Juventus dreams. Coach Marcello Lippi, however, was quick to also show respect for both Rangers and Steaua, saying: "We'll have to be very careful with Rangers, a side that features Hateley, Gascoigne and Laudrup. We don't know much about the Romanians but we'll treat them carefully too"

Lippi, though, has made no secret of his desire to win the Champions Cup even uttering the heretical thought that if he had to choose between the 1996 Italian title and the Champions Cup, then he would settle for the latter.

Lippi is likely to field much the same side in Group C as that which won the 1995 Italian title for him. Vialli, Ravanelli and Del Piero will continue to lead the attack while two ex-Sampdoria players, Serb Vladmir Jugovic and 35-year-old defender Pietro Vierchowod, represent the only significant changes.

Jugovic joins an all-foreign midfield comprising Frenchman Didier Deschamps and Portugal's Paulo Sousa, while Vierchowod will line out in a solid defence comprising goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi, marker Ciro Ferrara and this year's new sweeper, Alessio Tacchinardi.

PADDY AGNEW

SQUAD

Goalkeepers		**Midfielders**	
Angelo Peruzzi*	16.02.70	Antonio Conte	31.07.69
Michaelangelo Rampulla	10.08.62	Vladimir Jugovic* (Yug)	30.08.69
Defenders		Didier Deschamps* (Fra)	15.10.68
Ciro Ferrara*	11.02.67	Attilio Lombardo*	06.01.66
Pierto Vierchowod*	06.04.59	Giancarlo Marocchi*	04.07.65
Luca Fusi*	07.06.63	Paulo Sousa* (Por)	30.08.70
Sergio Porrini	08.11.68	**Forwards**	
Moreno Torricelli	23.01.70	Alessandro Del Piero*	09.11.74
Gianluca Pessotto	11.08.70	Fabrizio Ravanelli*	11.12.68
Alessio Tacchinardi	23.07.75	Gianluca Vialli*	09.07.64
Juan Pablo Sorin* (Arg)	05.05.76	**Coach:** Marcello Lippi.	

Steaua Bucharest

STEAUA BUCHAREST have been Romania's top club since their formation in 1947, and were the first Eastern European side to win the Champions Cup.

That surprise victory came in 1986 when they beat Terry Venables' Barcelona on penalties in Seville. One of the heroes that night, Marius Lacatus, scored one of Steaua's two successful penalties and has recently returned to the club. Steaua, the name means star, reached the final again in 1989 but were no match for a rampant Milan.

Under the old Communist regime, Steaua benefitted from the patronage of Valentin Ceaucescu, son of dictator Nicolae, and massive backing from the army, the driving force in the club's formative years. Since the fall of Communism, Steaua have maintained their domination at home but have made little impression in Europe as they continue to struggle to hang on to their best players.

They do, however, have 11 Romanian internationals on their books, and are usually a well-organised and highly disciplined outfit. First-choice goalkeeper Bogdan Stelea gained valuable experience with Spain's Mallorca, Belgium's Standard Liege and Turkey's Samsunspor before returning home.

The defence varies according to the opposition, with midfielder Daniel Prodan often operating as a sweeper behind Anton Dobos with Aurel Panait and Ionel Pirvu at full-back.

Veteran Lacatus, back after spells in Italy and Spain, will play as an attacking wide midfielder, with Damian Militaru and Iulian Filipescu performing the holding roles.

Steaua's main attacking threat lies with Adrian Ilie, top scorer with 12 goals in 1993 while with Electropetere Craiova, and Ion Vladoiu, who gained notoriety at USA '94 by being sent off four minutes after going on a susbstitute against Switzerland and then being sent home in disgrace.

JOHN KELLY

SQUAD

Goalkeepers		Constantin Gilca*	08.03.72
Bogdan Stelea*	05.12.67	Roland Nagy	12.06.71
Dumitru Stingaciu*	09.08.64	Damian Militaru*	13.04.69
Daniel Gherasim	12.11.64	Iulian Filipescu	29.03.74
Defenders		Laurentiu Rosu	26.10.75
Daniel Prodan*	23.03.72	**Forwards**	
Tiberiu Csik	12.12.71	Marius Lacatus*	05.04.64
Anton Dobos*	13.10.65	Vioel Oin*	02.11.67
Aurel Panait*	27.08.68	Adrian Ilie*	20.04.67
Bogdan Bucur	21.04.70	Catalin Popa	14.12.73
Ionel Pirvu	23.06.70	Ion Vladoiu*	05.11.68
Midfielders		**Coach:** Dumitru Dumitriu.	

Ferencvaros

FERENCVAROS are, far and away, Hungary's most successful club – with 25 League championships to their credit – and pulled off the biggest upset of the preliminary round when they beat Anderlecht 2-1 on aggregate after a fine 1-0 win in Brussels.

Founded in 1899, Fradi, as they are known for the sake of brevity, dominated Hungarian football in the 1920s and '30s, winning every single game in the 1931-32 season, with a side containing legendary striker Gyorgy Sarosi, who scored an amazing club record 613 goals in 607 matches for the green-and-whites.

Ferencvaros have a distinguished European pedigree, too, winning the Inter-City Fairs (UEFA) Cup in 1965, and finishing as runners-up in the 1968 Fairs Cup and the 1975 Cup-winners Cup. A star of that period was Florian Albert, the only Hungarian player to win the European Footballer of the Year award, and the darling of the Mersey crowds at the 1966 World Cup finals.

Today, Ferencvaros boast eight Hungarian internationals, including Florian Albert junior. He occupies one of the central midfield roles, along with Krisztian Lisztes, one of Fradi's most promising discoveries for years. Lisztes, already a Hungarian international, was joint second-highest scorer for Fradi last season, and is coveted by Bayern Munich, among others.

The defence features three Hungarian caps – Tibor Simon, Andras Telek and Jozsef Keller – along with Ukraine-born stopper Szergej Kuznyecov (the Hungarian transliteration of the English 'Kuznetsov').

The two-man attack pairs Zsolt Nagy with Goran Kopunovics, who scored the crucial equaliser in the home leg against Anderlecht. Nagy is at his best teasing defenders on the right wing, while Serb striker Kopunovics has had experience in Spain and scored six goals in 17 games last season.

However, Dezso Novak's side will have to perform Herculean feats to displace Ajax or Real Madrid at the top of this group.

JOHN KELLY

SQUAD

Goalkeepers		Zoltan Kecskes*	24.11.65
Attila Hajdu*	13.04.71	Krisztian Lisztes*	02.07.76
Jozsef Szeiler	03.11.65	Zoran Kuntics	23.03.67
Defenders		Zsolt Paling*	16.02.69
Janos Hrutka	26.10.74	Otto Vincze	29.08.74
Jozsef Keller*	29.09.65	Dejan Milovanovics (Yug)	01.10.69
Tibor Simon*	01.09.65	Gabor Vincze	07.09.76
Andras Telek*	10.12.70	**Forwards**	
Szergej Kuznyecov (Ukr)	01.01.63	Goran Kopunovics (Yug)	01.02.67
Akos Koller	10.09.74	Zsolt Nagy	04.06.68
Midfielders		Gabor Zavadszky	10.09.74
Florian Albert*	12.12.67	**Coach:** Dezso Novak	

Ajax Amsterdam

AJAX start their defence of the Champions Cup as one of the favourites to win the trophy, and with good reason.

The European champions are now 36 games unbeaten in the Dutch League, a run stretching back to the final game of the 1993-94 season, and are continually turning out new talent.

During the summer Frank Rijkaard retired while Clarence Seedorf, Tarik Oulida, John Van Den Brom and Peter Van Vossen moved on. Brazilian World Cup-winner Marcio Santos will replace Rijkaard in defence, but there are few changes, apart from that, to the team which beat Milan 1-0 in the final in Vienna last May.

Coach Louis Van Gaal favours a 4-3-3 line-up, with Edwin Van Der Sar – arguably the best keeper in Holland at present – in goal, Michael Reiziger and Marcio Santos as the full-backs, with Danny Blind and Frank De Boer in the middle. Santos and De Boer could switch positions depending on the number of forwards they are facing, but Van Gaal prefers to have Blind and De Boer – his defensive play-makers – in the middle if possible.

In midfield, Ronald De Boer will operate on the right, Edgar Davids on the left with Finnish international Jari Litmanen in the middle. Up front, Patrick Kluivert will be the spearhead, partnered by Nigerian Finidi George and Marc Overmars.

That leaves Nwankwo Kanu – one of the heroes in Vienna – on the bench, though he would play if one of the three first-choice foreigners is unavailable. Other reserves include goalkeeper Fred Grim, defenders Winston Bogarde and the experienced Sonny Silooy, midfielders Kiki Musampa, Martijn Reuser and veteran Arnold Scholten, and young striker Nordin Wooter.

The draw has been fairly kind and Van Gaal is confident his side will qualify. "We have enough talent of our own coming through," he said in a sublime piece of understatement.

JOHN KELLY

SQUAD

Goalkeepers		Jari Litmanen* (Fin)	20.02.71
Edwin Van Der Sar*	08.08.51	Martijn Reuser	01.02.75
Fred Grim	17.08.65	Arnold Scholten	04.12.62
Defenders		Kizito 'Kiki' Musampa	20.07.77
Danny Blind*	10.08.61	Ronald De Boer*	15.05.70
Frank De Boer*	15.05.70	**Forwards**	
Michael Reiziger*	03.05.73	Nwankwo Kanu* (Nig)	01.08.76
Sonny Silooy*	31.08.63	Finidi George* (Nig)	15.04.71
Winston Bogarde	22.10.70	Patrick Kluivert*	01.07.76
Marcio Santos* (Bra)	15.09.69	Marc Overmars*	29.03.73
Midfielders		Dennis Schulp	18.01.78
Edgar Davids*	13.03.73	**Coach:** Louis Van Gaal.	

Real Madrid

IT IS almost 20 years since Real Madrid, one of the great names of European football, lifted the Champions Cup. But the name alone is unlikely to carry the Spanish champions far in this year's Champions League.

Real were convincing, if unspectacular, title-winners in Spain last season. Coach Jorge Valdano broke with the past, releasing the veteran striker Emilio Butragueno, and blooding youngsters such as Raul who, at 17 years and four months, became Real's youngest ever first-team player.

Injuries to key players last season didn't help. Michel was out for most of the season injured, as was Argentinian World Cup star Fernando Redondo. But the signing of Michael Laudrup from Barcelona proved inspired. The Dane's scintillating performances give a whole new dimension to the team and provided the ammunition for Chilean top-scorer Ivan Zamorano.

At the back goalkeeper 'Paco' Buyo is playing better than ever, while last season was arguably veteran defender Manuel Sanchis' best. Hierro, a determined performer coming forward, is also well established in defence.

In midfield the return from injury of Michel and Redondo is a big boost for Valdano. They'll be joined by Luis Enrique, Amavisca and Laudrup. Other option include Colombian Fredy Rincon, signed from Palmeiras this summer after a year on loan to Napoli, and Juan Esnaider, who returns to Madrid two years after his departure for Real Zaragoza. Two players have moved on: Martin Vasquez joined John Toshack's Deportivo La Coruna, only to suffer a cruciate knee injury in the first minute of his debut, while Robert Prosinecki has joined Barcelona after a year on loan to Real Oviedo.

Valdano certainly has the options to build an impressive team, but winning the Champions League at his first attempt is a tall order. Psychologically, Real are under more pressure to succeed than any other team in the competition, and that could seriously hamper their chances in the long run.

GAVIN HAMILTON

SQUAD

Goalkeepers		Michel*	23.03.63
Francisco Buyo*	13.01.58	Fernando Redondo* (Arg)	06.06.69
Jose Canizares*	18.12.69	Michael Laudrup* (Den)	15.06.64
Defenders		Luis Enrique*	08.05.70
Miguel Soler*	13.03.65	Sandro	14.10.74
Nando*	30.10.67	Fredy Rincon* (Col)	14.08.66
Manuel Sanchis*	23.05.65	**Forwards**	
Mikel Lasa*	09.09.71	Ivan Zamorano* (Chi)	18.01.67
Rafael Alkorta*	16.09.68	Jose Amavisca*	19.06.71
Quique Flores*	05.02.65	Raul Gonzalez	27.06.77
Midfielders		Juan Esnaider (Arg)	05.03.73
Fernando Hierro*	23.03.68	**Coach:** Jorge Valdano (Arg).	

Grasshopper Zurich

THE Grasshopper club of Zurich, founded in 1886, is one of the oldest in Switzerland, and certainly one of the most successful.

They have won the national championship 23 times and the Cup 18 times. It is fitting therefore that they have become the first club ever to represent the country in the UEFA Champions League.

Their aspirations may not stretch as far as actually winning the prestigious trophy, but they are determined to give a good account of themselves. Swiss football has made great strides recently, as witnessed by the national team's qualification for the 1994 World Cup finals.

But these successes have been at a price. They have sparked foreign interest in the best players, who have left the country in worrying numbers to seek richer pastures abroad, mostly in neighbouring Germany. Nonetheless, Grasshopper still boast six men in the current national squad.

Grasshopper have increasingly had to rely on developing their own talent. Team manager Christian Gross, 41, who has held the job for two years, explains: "We have had to replace in recent years such key players as Alain Sutter, Giovane Elber, Ciriaco Sforza and Thomas Bickel. But their young deputies did marvellously. They all understand my system of zonal marking perfectly. What we need to improve is the technique of individuals."

The Swiss champions' strength is their organisation, aggression and tackling. The blend of young and old is right and they attack on the flanks with quick full-backs and raiding wingers.

At the start of every season the club tries to engage at least one experienced player to lead the youngsters. In 1994 it was striker Nestor Subiat, born in Argentina and recently voted Switzerland's Footballer of the Year.

This summer the veteran international sweeper Alain Geiger, 34, arrived from FC Sion. Other stars include the Swedish-born Mats Gren and the international all-rounder Marcel Koller, who together form a vital defensive axis.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

SQUAD

Goalkeepers		Tomasz Rzasa* (Pol)	11.03.73
Roberto Bocki	12.08.59	Gurkan Sermeter	14.02.74
Pascal Zuberbuhler*	08.01.71	Johann Vogel*	08.03.77
Defenders		Murat Yakin*	15.09.74
Harald Gamperle*	11.05.68	**Forwards**	
Mats Gren* (Swe)	20.12.63	Patrick De Napoli	17.11.75
Pascal Thuler*	10.01.70	Joel Magnin	31.05.71
Ramon Vega*	14.06.71	Nestor Subiat*	23.04.66
Alain Geiger*	05.11.60	Alexandre Comisetti	21.07.73
Midfielders		Ibrahim Ali* (Gha)	01.09.69
Marcel Koller*	11.11.60	Eric Viscaal* (Hol)	20.03.68
Massimo Lombardo	09.01.73	**Coach:** Christian Gross.	

Prima Parma!

Forget Milan, Parma are the team to watch. Paddy Agnew previews the new season

FOR ONCE, the start of the new Italian season engendered a sense of sadness and loss.

Marco Van Basten was the loss and his long anticipated retirement announcement, just a week before the new season began, cast a temporary shadow over *il campionato*.

After 10 years of suffering and five ankle operations, the 30-year-old Holland and Milan star has had to accept the inevitable.

As the curtain rose on the new season, it is worth recalling Van Basten's words when asked about his future: "I'd like to live a normal life, be healthy again. Now, when I wake up in the morning, my ankle pains me and I limp".

The stress and strain of competitive soccer and not least the unfriendly attentions of less than honest defenders have so badly reduced one of contemporary soccer's greatest talents that he now just hopes to be able to walk normally again, fit and sound.

The game has left him half crippled. However, in the world of 'soccer-biz', the show goes on and one week after Van Basten's announcement, Milan fans were rubbing their hands in glee in the belief that, finally, they might have found a player good enough to replace him.

His name, of course, is George Weah and goals from the Liberian in League and Italian Cup wins over Padova and Pescara prompted immediate speculation that he would be well worth the £4.5million paid to Paris Saint Germain this summer.

These are early days but already it would seem that Milan's much heralded 'dream attack' of Weah, Roberto Baggio and Montenegrin Dejan Savicevic may prove as useful on the pitch as it looks on paper.

Sceptics have argued otherwise, but so far, so good. Milan, of course, made the biggest waves on the transfer market, splashing out a total of £13m for Baggio (Juventus), Weah and Portugal's Paolo Futre (Reggiana).

That spending reflects something of the disappointment in Milan at the end of a season which saw them finish empty-handed, beaten by Ajax Amsterdam in the Champions Cup final and by Velez Sarsfeld in the World Cup Final, while finishing only fourth in the League

The Milan recruitment policy, however, may have created familiar problems at Milanello, with the possibility of famous names being left in the grandstand every Sunday.

If the 'dream attack' proves a success, then where does that leave Futre, Marco Simone and Gigi Lentini?

Likewise, coach Fabio Capello looks like he will have to sacrifice one of his best players of the last two seasons, Croat midfielder Zvonimir Boban, in order to make room for Savicevic and Weah in attack and for lynch-pin midfielder, Frenchman Marcel Desailly. Italian clubs are still allowed only three foreigners on the 16 player team sheet for League and Italian Cup games.

Despite those reservations, however, Milan inevitably make their way into any shortlist of possible title contenders.

In truth, one suspects that list will be very short indeed, featuring the three strongest sides of recent years: Milan, reigning champions Juventus and UEFA Cup holders Parma.

Parma, the only team to go all the way with Juventus last season, hope that the purchase of Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov may finally see them make that quantum leap from pretender to king.

If the brilliant Bulgarian can produce the leadership qualities which made him one of the outstanding players at the USA World Cup, his £4.8m move from Barcelona may prove the single most significant buy of the Italian summer.

Parma, too, will have their foreign player quota problems, wondering how to make room for Portuguese defender Fernando Couto, Swedish midfielder Tomas Brolin and Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla.

Just as well that their Argentinian midfielder Nestor Sensini will this year be able to claim Italian nationality and thus be exempt from the foreign player ruling.

Even Parma's early season hiccups, including a humiliating 3-0 elimination from the Italian Cup by second division Palermo, could prove a mixed blessing.

In a year when they will be involved in the Cup-winners Cup as well as the title race, it could prove beneficial to have one less commitment on the crowded fixture list.

Champions Juventus have also been busy in the market place, spending £12.5m for the likes of Serb Vladimir Jugovic (Sampdoria), Argentinian Juan Sorin (Argentinos Junior), as well as Michele Padovano (Genoa), Attilio Lombardo (currently recovering from a broken leg picked up in a pre-season friendly against Borussia Dortmund) and Pietro Vierchowod (both Samp).

Juventus, of course, did not need to change much. In their attacking trio of Gianluca Vialli, Fabrizio Ravanelli and Alessandro Del Piero, they have a strong line up, while the midfield of Frenchman Didier Deschamps and Portugal's Paulo Sousa and a defence based on Vierchowod alongside Ciro Ferrara leave little to chance.

Hanging his boots up . . . Marco Van Basten's pre-season optimism proved unfounded

Early season form with League and Cup wins over Cremonese and Avellino suggest that the champions are ready to carry on where they left off.

Internazionale, Roma and Lazio have also to be included in long range championship predictions, even if Inter look too young, Roma too dull and Lazio too much the same to really convince anyone other than their most loyal supporters that they can do it.

Inter fielded no less than six new signings in their opening game of the season, a 1-0 home win against Vicenza. Benito Carbone (Napoli) and Maurizio Ganz (Atalanta) in attack look lightweight for Serie A, while the combative qualities of £7m Englishman Paul Ince (Manchester United) badly need to be complemented by an as yet unfound playmaker.

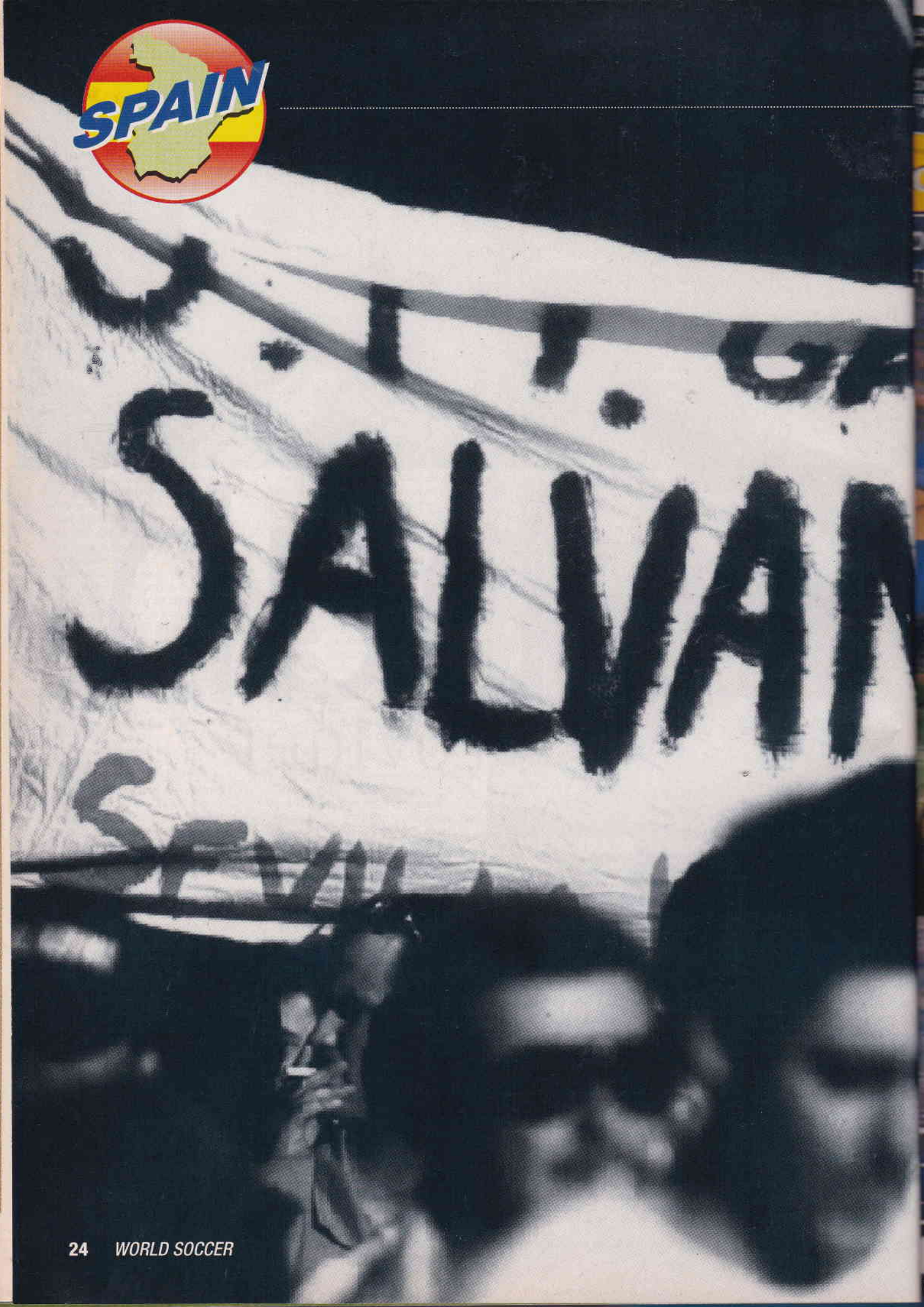
Inter, however, appear to have bought wisely with regard to explosive Brazilian left-back Roberto Carlos (Palmeiras), sweeper Salvatore Fresi (Salernitana) and Argentine Javier Zanetti (Banfield).

Even before the curtain rose, though, Inter coach Ottavio Bianchi was under pressure to retain his job. The Inter season could be a familiar one – hot and heavy.

The same could apply to the Rome teams. Both Lazio and Roma would seem to be hoping for miracles by fielding two little changed sides that were simply not good enough last season. Hard to see how they will be good enough this year.

One final thought.

Parma to win the title, if only for the obvious reason that they are the one title contender never to have won a *scudetto*. They should be hungry – and Stoichkov should make the difference.


SPAIN
SALVA

SHAMBLES!

Graham Turner follows the farce that led to Sevilla and Celta being relegated to the regional backwater of Division 2B only to be re-promoted days later, and after protests by thousands of fans, to an expanded 22-team first division

NOT many Spaniards will take take offence at the Sevilla-Celta affair being described as a Third World shambles. They were the first to admit it. But it may be libellous to the Third World.

Only a group of inspired minds could have scripted such a tragedy of errors. The only common denominator among the protagonists was a total disregard for football, especially among the bigwigs at the Liga de Futbol Profesional.

The story started when the LFP and the Consejo Superior (CSD) had a new law written into the statutes. Basically, clubs had to be all square with the taxman and Social Security and then provide bank guarantees for five per cent of their estimated turnover for the following season.

All this had to be in place by August 1. If it wasn't, the club would be ejected from pro football and shunted into the semi-pro groupings of Division 2B.

Of course, if you give Spaniards until midnight to produce the goods, a fair proportion of them will still be wearing pyjamas and a Wee Willie Winkie hat at 23.59pm and therefore run a serious risk of being turned into a semi-pro pumpkin.

Over the weekend preceding the Monday deadline, most of the 2B or not 2B questions were directed at Real Madrid. On the Thursday, financial director Juan Miguel Villar Mir walked out of the boardroom, followed by six other directors. Villar Mir refused to put his signature to the accounts, which he had drawn up an which claimed an operating loss of some £10million on last season.

He and his henchmen – initially rivals of Ramon Mendoza in last February's presidential elections – said they would cover the deficit on condition that his own economic policies were allowed to prevail and that the current managing director, Manuel Fernandez Trigo, was replaced by one of his own band of not very merry men. The other directors interpreted this as a boardroom putsch, with Villar Mir aiming to take a majority holding on the bank guarantees and thus acquire, via the back door, a controlling interest in the club.

Mendoza stood his ground, Villar Mir walked out and the remaining 13 directors had 72 hours to raise collateral for some £7m. They did, and Mendoza flew off to Switzerland to explain the whys and wherefores to coach Jorge Valdano and his squad, at their training camp.

Mendoza was there when the LFP dropped their bomb. Sevilla and Celta were down to 2B because their bank guarantees were short by £425,000 and £225,000 respectively. Valladolid, relegated with a few weeks earlier, and Albacete, thrashed by Salamanca in the play-offs, would be re-promoted.

When John Toshack piped up from La Coruna, pointing out that neither club had lived up to First Division requirements on the field of play, he was called every name under the sun. Albacete coach Benito Floro suggested that Tosh "be grateful that Spain had given him an opportunity to work".

Floro, who described reinstatement as "an act of justice", might have done better to question his tactics in Albacete's last two home games. His team, needing on each occasion just a draw to survive, lost 8-2 and 5-0.

Symptoms of madness suddenly appeared all over the place. Lawyers representing the two clubs ensured that the only definite outcome would be Albacete's and Valladolid's return to the First Division.

Sevilla and Celta prepared appeals while their fans organised demonstrations, sit-ins, sleep-ins and even hunger strikes, and Sevilla's president, Luis Cuervas, resigned after being under police protection.

The consequences for the two clubs were gargantuan. They would take at least two years to regain First Division status, and top pros such as Davor Suker and Tarik Oulida, signed from European champions Ajax, would be consigned to regional football apart from a few UEFA Cup games (Sevilla qualified via fifth place).

The clubs were not accused of bad debts, corruption, bungs or bad breath. They simply had fallen short on bank guarantees by sums which the fans would have produced by public subscription within 24 hours. As one commentator put it, chucking away a dog-end had incurred the death penalty.

At this point everyone waded in. Mayors, politicians, even archbishops sided with the boys on death row, searching for a commodity which had gone missing – common sense. The CSD's interpretation of this was to turn down the clubs' appeals and pass the buck back to the LFP who, realising the urgent need to resolve the situation, called an Extraordinary General Meeting for the following week. Indecent haste, indeed.

Sevilla cancelled – at the 11th hour – the fleet of buses which was to take some 10,000 fans to the LFP offices, persuaded by the police that it was a serious security risk "if things went wrong". So only 2,000 fans sweltered in the Madrid sun while the 38 LFP member clubs put their heads together in a meeting shown live on TV.

The foregone conclusion was that they would look for the easy way out and simply increase the First Division to 22 teams. That did not prevent them from paddling around in the gravy for almost five hours without even threatening to get at the meat.

Suddenly, without so much as a vote, the LFP announced that Sevilla and Celta were reinstated and that the First Division would comprise 22 clubs for the next TWO seasons! Meeting closed, thanks very much for coming.

That left the small matter of arranging a totally new fixture list for what had suddenly become Europe's largest league, 17 days before it was due to kick off, and created a few smoking ear'oles across Madrid, at the Football Federation offices.

They had been completely alien to the whole proceedings and had not even been invited to attend the LFP meeting. In order to fit in four extra games the new fixture list grabbed three dates earmarked for national team friendlies, against Argentina and Norway (twice), thus depriving Javier Clemente of pre-Euro 96 work-outs, and the federation of a large slice of income.

Clemente had to be restrained from holding an explosive media conference while the federation stressed that pre-arranged matches would not b cancelled. Players and coaches unanimously condemned the 42-match championship and the LFP deserve congratulations for having caused so much strife and civil war.

Fredy goes to Madrid

AS THE Sevilla-Celta farce rumbled on, clubs were busy making last-minute retouches to their squads.

Real Madrid somewhat cautiously announced the signing of Colombian World Cup midfielder Fredy Rincon as a replacement for striker Alfonso who, after weeks of soul-searching, made a tearful departure to Betis.

Alfonso struggled to regain his place after a cruciate ligament operation ruled him out of last year's World Cup, and Real coach Jorge Valdano feels that he needs 50 or so First Division games to make or break his image as an up-and-coming superstar. Hence Real's insistence on a buy-back clause valid for two years.

Talking of cruciate ligaments, nobody could have had worse luck than Rafael Martin Vazquez, Alfonso's former team-mate at Real. In the first minute of his new team Deportivo's first pre-season friendly, against Porto, he suffered the dreaded injury and, at 30, faces a lengthy rehabilitation.

Rashidi Yekini is finally staring at the other side of the coin after his cruciate problems. Gijon signed him from Olympiakos a year ago, only to discover the injury during his routine medical. They have looked after him, and his signing has now been completed.

So, Oviedo assure us, has the signing of Russian international Viktor Onopko, the Spartak Moscow skipper who has appeared on so many Western shopping lists but has somehow failed to get past the check-out. Oviedo maintain he will join them once the Champions League group phase has finished in December.

Gordillo gallops back

RAFAEL GORDILLO had galloped off into the Andalusian sunset at the age of 38.

But six weeks after saying adios to his beloved Betis and hanging up his boots, he was back in training with Second Division newcomers Ecija.

His wife explains: "I spent two years trying to persuade him to retire, but after having him at home for four weeks I told him that if retirement was going to make him such a crochety old ***, I'd prefer to see him back playing again."

No sooner said than done.

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Germany

Boom time!

Season ticket sales are going through the roof as clubs cash in on the latest Bundesliga boom, says Arthur Rotmil

GERMAN CLUBS started the new season after a brief break on August 11. The players of Bayer Leverkusen, Eintracht Frankfurt, Koln and Karlsruhe experienced the shortest holidays on record, because all were involved in the Intertoto Cup.

The competition began just after the championship programme had ended in June and continued throughout July into August. Unlike the English contestants, who used youth players, all German clubs fielded full-strength teams.

The 33rd Bundesliga campaign was launched to the fanfares of high expectations sparked by the remarkable attendance figures last term, when at nearly 30,000 per match they were the highest in Europe and the best ever in Germany. The boom is set to continue with clubs reporting record season ticket sales.

Borussia Dortmund, the champions, have once more sold their full quota of 28,000, and 10 other clubs reached their best figures ever.

Altogether nearly 200,000 'seasons' were disposed of, 30,000 more than at the corresponding stage last year. Clearly the fans are anticipating more thrills and another exciting finale with a last-minute decider as in June, when Dortmund snatched the title from Werder Bremen.

Dortmund and record champions Bayern Munich are being overwhelmingly tipped for the title. Both clubs, however, have suffered injuries to key players who were unable to start the season on time.

Bayern's captain, 122-cap Lothar Matthaus, underwent yet another operation on an achilles tendon. This could end his career – he is 34, after all – and Bulgarian World Cup striker Emil Kostadinov had an operation on his jawbone. Dortmund had half the team out, some players suffering long-term injuries.

Both clubs strengthened their ranks with acquisitions. Bayern engaged a completely new midfield (Strunz, Herzog, Sforza) plus Klinsmann, who damaged ankle ligaments on his debut and was put out for a month.

Dortmund, badly hit by injuries, signed new international striker Heiko Herrlich, the Uruguayan Ruben Sosa and the 74-cap stopper Jurgen Kohler.

Herrlich, last season's joint top-scorer in the Bundesliga, fell out with Borussia Monchengladbach, and threatened he would rather give up football than play for them again. The row was dragged through the courts before being finally resolved. He scored on his Dortmund debut, a 1-1 home draw with Kaiserslautern.

Vastly increased income from television, sponsorship, advertising and merchandising has allowed most clubs to spend freely in the transfer market. Altogether the 18 Bundesliga clubs laid out over £50million on newcomers.

Three innovations are designed to make the game more attractive.

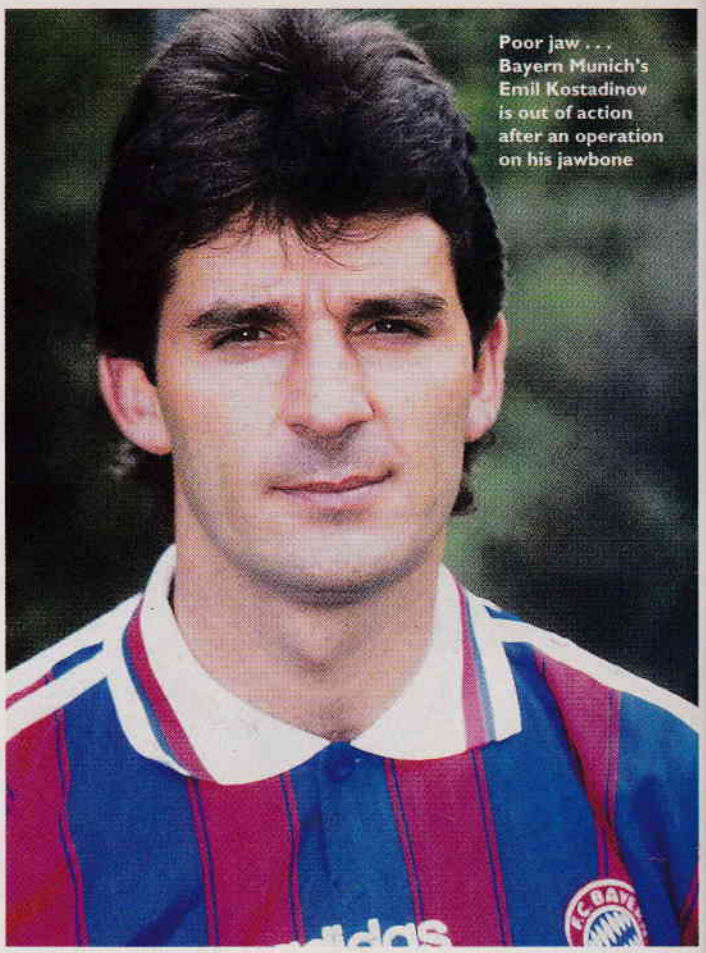
In the Bundesliga a win will be worth three points, in line with the latest FIFA directives. "We expect to see even more attacking football," commented Bayern's new team manager, Otto Rehhagel. For the first time all players are wearing shirt names and squad numbers fixed for the whole season; and three outfield players can be substituted.

"This will give us more room tactically," claims Dortmund's successful boss, Ottmar Hitzfeld.

Bayern, who established a German record with an average gate of 54,284 last season, are under pressure.

"The expectations here are the greatest for 15 years," says Matthaus. The 38,000 club members and 1,060 fan clubs are expecting nothing less than the title. But Dortmund, as well as Werder Bremen and Kaiserslautern, also strengthened by new stars, will make the Bavarians fight every inch.

At the other end of the scale, Dynamo Dresden were relegated because of false accounts which concealed massive debts. They have been refused a trading licence and were banished by the DFB to the regional amateur league Nordost, while the players also lost their professional status.



Poor jaw . . . Bayern Munich's Emil Kostadinov is out of action after an operation on his jawbone

Switzerland

Xamax in great shape

NOTHING much has changed in Swiss football. The same 12 clubs as last year started the new season's qualifying phase on July 19, and it will not end until December 10.

FC Sion undertook the biggest personnel changes, releasing eight players and signing 12. The new team chief, former international Michel Decastel, has immediately found the right blend and after five rounds the remodelled side led the table. The attacking tandem of Assis and Quattara, sold to Sporting Lisbon for £2.2million, was hardly missed.

The biggest losers on the transfer market were Xamax Neuchatel. Because of enforced economies Xamax transferred Bulgarian striker Aleksandrov, last season's League top scorer, and Gottardi, both to Luzern, Gottardi to Lazio and the brilliant international Henchoz to Hamburg. Luzern libero Rueda was the only experienced newcomer.

Xamax nevertheless managed to pull off a memorable victory in the UEFA Cup preliminary round. After winning 1-0 in Belgrade, they drew 0-0 at home to Red Star to take their place in the first round draw.

Young Boys Bern, Lausanne Sports and St Gallen were tipped for the relegation pool, because they too had to sell players to balance the books.

But Lausanne may yet surprise the critics. Swedish international Stefan Rehn is being hailed as the most distinguished of the foreign imports.

Their new manager is the veteran international striker Georges Bregy, who retired as a player after the '94 World Cup. He is building a young side around Rahn and hopes that this team will at least hold their own in the upper sphere.

Of the top 10 foreigners in the First Division, seven are over 29, which says a lot about the potential of the Swiss clubs seeking to attract foreign mercenaries. No wonder that they call Switzerland the pensioners' paradise.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

The gamesmaster

Nick Bidwell looks at the career of 'Super' Mario Basler, Werder Bremen's fast-living, sharp-shooting, top-scoring international midfielder

WERDER BREMEN and Germany midfielder Mario Basler might not represent everyone's ideal of a professional sportsman, but there can be no denying his footballing credentials.

Basler likes beer and cigarettes and has a volatile nature which often hovers around boiling point. Yet this distinct lack of a squeaky-clean image has not prevented him from developing into one of the most spectacular performers in the Bundesliga. No wonder he's known to his many fans as 'Super Mario'.

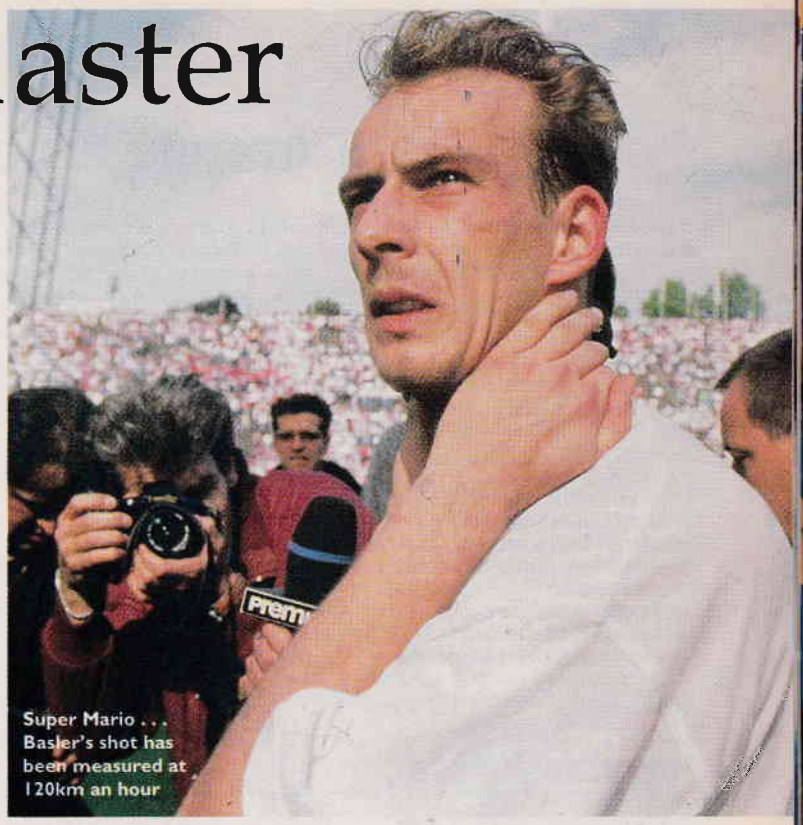
After all, it's not every day a midfielder manages to finish a season on top of his country's scoring charts. But Basler achieved a share in that distinction last term, along with Heiko Herrlich of Borussia Monchengladbach, on 20 goals apiece.

"Of course it was very pleasing to score so many goals," says Basler. "But what made it even more satisfying was that for much of the time I was struggling with a groin injury. Werder were challenging for the title, so I put off the operation I needed, and to avoid any further complications I trained as little as possible.

"It was really frustrating to lose the championship on the last day, when Dortmund overtook us on the line. We had thought the title was within our grasp, but we just seemed to run out of gas. I would have willingly swapped the scoring award for the Bundesliga shield.

"I don't think we lost the title on the final weekend of the season. We let our chance slip a fortnight before, when we went down 4-2 against Schalke. That was the turning point.

"We have to make do with the thought that we enjoyed an extremely good season and pushed Dortmund all the way. Dortmund dominated the first half, and we were the best team after the winter break. In my opinion we deserved the title just as much as Dortmund."



Super Mario . . . Basler's shot has been measured at 120km an hour

Basler, who excels in the perfectly-timed forward run and deadly finish, is also renowned as a dead-ball specialist, equally capable of converting free-kicks by a curler into the top corner or a thunderous long-range drive.

"Mario is the best taker of a set-piece in Germany," says his former Werder coach, Otto Rehhagel, now in charge of Bayern Munich. "He is so accurate and generates an incredible amount of power. His timing when he strikes the ball is invariably spot on and it was no shock to me when it was calculated that his shots travel at 120 kilometres an hour.

"It's the same with the corners. He drives them flat and swinging in – an absolute nightmare for opposition keepers and defenders. His corners were a great attacking weapon for us at Werder. They caused chaos and many goals for us. Mario is simply a dead-ball phenomenon."

Certainly Basler has come a long way since he suffered the heartbreak of rejection by Kaiserslautern at the end of the 1980s. But after some impressive work in the Second Division with Rot-Weiss Essen and Hertha Berlin, he was spotted by Rehhagel, one of the German transfer market's more astute operators and bought from Hertha in the summer of 1993 for a bargain fee of £850,000.

"On first watching Mario, I considered him a rough diamond," says Rehhagel. "With the ball at his feet he was world class – technically very strong, bags of creativity, a great shot. He was also versatile enough to play in a number of positions, including libero. But he had a few weaknesses too.

"Without the ball, he wasn't the same outstanding player. Making challenges and heading were not really for him and, positionally, he could be caught out.

"It says much for Mario's hunger for success that he worked hard to iron out those faults and within eight months of coming to Werder, he was in the German national team."

He might have done a good job at the World Cup last year, but he played only once after being injured in a warm-up game, and then he had to fly home early because his wife was ill.

"Up to now, he's not been so effective for Germany as for his club, but gradually he is becoming more and more influential at international level," says Rehhagel.

"He's only 26 and can only get better. I have no doubts he will be a key figure in the national team at next year's European Championships, and beyond."

But will Super Mario still be a Werder Bremen employee when the Euro '96 finals kick off? He has a contract which ties him to Werder until 2000, but the odds on his honouring it are slim.

Basler has made no secret of his desire to play abroad, and with Serie A Champions Juventus and Spanish Cup holders Deportivo La Coruna reportedly interested, it would be no great surprise if he headed for one of those Latin footballing hot-spots.

His most pressing target just now, however, is helping Werder end 1995-96 on top of the Bundesliga. "I'm confident we will bounce back from the disappointment of last season," he maintains.

"I don't intend to be involved in another anti-climax. We definitely have what it takes to win the title."

Austria

Sturm's stuttering start

AUSTRIAN football last season experienced a remarkable rise in attendances of 45 per cent, the highest figure for 25 years.

Now hopes are high of a repeat of interest and the omens are good if the start to the new campaign is anything to go by. But the surprise team of last season, Sturm Graz, began badly.

After 19 games and nine months without defeat the championship runners-up were finally beaten by title-holders Austria Salzburg, 2-0. Both goals were scored by new Slovak striker Tibor Jancula, in the last two minutes of the game.

Salzburg's other newcomer, the national team's schemer Prosenik, from FK Austria, also made a highly promising debut.

But the Salzburger suffered a painful loss in the Supercup meeting with Cup-winners Rapid, when Croatian born striker Tomislav Kocijan was carried off with a damaged ankle.

Kocijan was put out of action for six weeks, and had to attend his own wedding on crutches.

The match was unhappily so brutal that even Austria's Chancellor (equivalent to Prime Minister) Franz Vranitzky, appealed for fair play. Salzburg's team manager, the Croat Otto Baric, has again rejected offers to move to Italy and his native land. He is determined to make it a hat-trick of titles in Salzburg.

Baric describes Rapid and Sturm Graz as his main rivals. The Rapidler have replaced young star Marcus Purk, who joined Real Sociedad, with Norwegian Geir Frigard, and signed Bulgarian international Trifon Ivanov as well.

FK Austria bemoaned their lowest League placing (fourth) in 20 years and have won nothing for the first time in five years. They lost Prosenik to Salzburg and the Pole Kubica to Legia Warsaw, while long-serving sweeper Manfred Zsak has quit football. He has left to become a golf professional.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

France

Papin plays a strange tune

A DISAPPOINTMENT rather than a surprise, that 1-1 home draw with Poland, putting qualification for next year's Euro '96 tournament in jeopardy.

No Cantona, Loko or Blanc. And a nail-biting wait from the 35th minute, when the fair-headed Juskowiak put the Poles ahead, to the salvation of that 87th-minute equaliser from Djorkaeff.

Inevitably much, perhaps too much, of the talk has been of corruption. What possessed Jean-Pierre Papin suddenly to blurt out to Italian journalists in Berlin that he knew two Milan players had been bribed to take it easy in the Champions Cup Final, lost to Marseille in 1993?

Papin that day was a Milan player, who went on only as a substitute. Hardly had he made the accusations than he climbed down, though too late to avoid disciplinary action from UEFA. Though we know now through the confessions of Bernes, former henchman to Bernard Tapie, that Marseille were bribing opponents left right and centre, in and out of Europe, Papin's accusations seemed strange.

Who ever heard of Milan being bribed rather than . . . well, cast your mind back to the Cup-winners Cup Final in Salonika in 1973, when Milan beat Leeds, helped by some weird refereeing decisions. After which the referee in question, Michas, was suspended; though nothing happened to Milan.

The investigations of French magistrates into the astonishing revelations of the Croatian fixer, Ljubomir Barin, have been much more serious. Barin has allegedly named the names of Marseille and Bordeaux, among many others. Including Bayern Munich, whose win against Leeds – again – in the 1975 Champions Cup Final at Parc des Princes raised many an eyebrow.

UEFA over the years may have been inept in investigating, let alone punishing, such scandals, but once our judges get their teeth into a case, they rarely – as we have seen in the Tapie-Marseille affair – let go. And on this occasion there are no fewer than three of them at work: Bernadette Pragout in Bordeaux, Pierre Philippon in Marseille, and now, in Paris, Patrick Fievet.

Barin, an 'authorised mediator' in UEFA's eyes since 1966, was arrested early this year in Germany, and after two months shifted to a prison in Bordeaux. Three months there, then he was let out on bail. He claims to have been the right-hand man to the old president of Bordeaux, Claude Bez; eventually run out of football on a rail.

In 1984, says Barin, he opened a bank account in Switzerland with the proceeds of transfers' surpluses. He names the brothers Vujovic, signed by Bordeaux in 1986, Ferreri and Bijotat, French players, O'Boyle from Ireland and Reinders of Germany.

When, after 1982, it was no longer possible to do deals in cash, the secret account was opened, and money from it allegedly was used to fix referees. Barin allegedly acted as middle man when the late Austrian referee, Kohl, was paid 310,000 francs, some £45,000, to fix the game between Marseille and AEK in the Champions Cup in Athens. Tapie says it's all nonsense, and Marseille didn't need to bribe anybody.

A puzzled American reader asks if there be such a thing as The Fifth Amendment in France. Let me set his doubts at rest. There ain't. It's specifically an American institution, of the Constitution, made famous by testifying *mafiosi:* "I refuse to answer that question on the grounds I may incriminate myself." I merely used it as a metaphor.

Stalemate . . . Poland's Kozminski and France's Lizarazu during the 1-1 draw in Paris

Little Bastia, of Corsica, began the season with a real flourish, and none more so than their alert striker, 22-year-old Bruno Rodriguez. All the more satisfactory for Bastia because he is a local lad.

The irony is that Monaco let him go. He was a member of their youth scheme, but though he got into the first-team squad, there were just too many stars for him to succeed in the Principality.

So he went home to Bastia, but took wing only when a fellow Corsican, Frederic Antonetti, took over the side, and showed faith in him. Which has been well rewarded. Not least when Monaco visited Bastia, and were beaten! And guess who was just about the best player on the field the day that Bastia beat Bordeaux? Why, none other than one of the leading actors in the Valenciennes-Marseille affair, Eydelie.

Marseille were forced to stay down in Division Two, and on the whole quite lucky, as we know, even to be there – legal technicalities kept them out of the Third. It seems most unlikely that this season they will climb back to the promotion they won last season on the field, but lost as a result of Tapie's many machinations.

The most alarming feature of Marseille's sombre start to the season was not so much the results but the way the team caved in; where for so long Marseille had been renowned for their resilience.

"When luck isn't favourable," complained the director general, Roussier, "this team completely falls apart. It's terrifying!" Even players with a distinguished past, such as Ferrer and Ferreri, have been accused of shirking their responsibilities, and have been dropped.

Something isn't happening, even if the arrival of such accomplished players as Tatarian, Hernandez and Bjekovic seemed to guarantee at least stability, if not improvement. Not an easy row for Tony Cascarino, so effective with head and foot last season, to hoe.

Certain players, complains Roussier are behaving more like spectators.

ANDRE DUCLOS

Holland

Advocaat advocates youth policy

DICK ADVOCAAT was a fighter as a player, as a coach and as chief coach of Holland. He is also a man with football sense.

Things were beginning to go wrong with Holland. At the same time PSV were looking for a new coach. They wanted Advocaat – who was thinking about building with more young players at the national level.

Great minds think alike. So Advocaat took over at PSV, while Guus Hiddink, one-time chief coach at PSV, became the new Holland boss.

Advocaat was becoming a fighter in a quiet way. He was happy that virtually everybody in football was talking on – and on – about Ajax. That meant he could get on with his job of rebuilding PSV into a team – and a club – ready to offer once again a serious challenge to the 'Wonderful West' . . . in other words, Ajax and Feyenoord.

Advocaat already had Wim Jonk from Internazionale, as part of the deal involving Dennis Bergkamp. Now both are happy to forget about Italian football.

He had added defender Chris Van der Weerden and attacking midfielder Phillip Cocu, both from Vitesse, and given his squad extra strength by bringing Rene Eijkelkamp back home from Club Brugge. He can play as a shadow striker, or as a genuine midfielder.

With Jan Wouters forming a more than useful midfield partnership – the veteran with talent and plenty of experience, and the younger player with plenty of knowhow, Jonk – you might imagine that Advocaat had got it all going his way.

But he is determined to stop the chatter that suggests PSV will never produce a line of youngsters anything like as long as the Ajax Soccer School.

For starters, Tom Van der Leegte, a midfielder from PSV's own school, has just become a full-time professional, and while it may be some considerable time before PSV can compete with the Ajax school, at least Advocaat knows where he is going: produce the talent and then make sure that the youngsters can stay with PSV.

UEFA recognise players who have taken part in a professional club's youth plans for two years as foreigners, with a difference that allows them to play for that club as a professional, and Advocaat and his coaching and scouting staff are getting down to the build-up.

Four from eastern Europe are now in Eindhoven, their ages ranging from 15 to 17. They were spotted by scout Gerrit Van Tilburg in international youth tournaments.

The oldest is Russian youth international midfielder Sergei Temrukov, now a regular in PSV's second team, where he is coached by former Dutch international central defender Ernie Brandts.

Temrukov, plus two Belgians and nine Dutch boys, make up the youth squad at Eindhoven, which is run on similar lines to the English apprentice scheme, except that the boys come in for training afternoons and evenings only.

ERIC NICHOLLS

Belgium

Visitors mar opening match

AUGUST 23, 1995, will not linger long in the memories of all those who have a special affection for Belgian football.

Not only did the national team lose, 2-1 at home to Germany, but Anderlecht went out in the Champions Cup preliminary round.

The opening of the King Baudouin Stadium – named after the former monarch – by his widow Queen Fabiola, on the site of the ill-fated Heysel Stadium, should have been a grand occasion but was tarnished by the misbehaviour of German fans.

Irreverent acts of drunken loutishness brought immediate, irrational calls from the English FA for them to be banned from England next summer. Talk about the pot calling the kettle black!

Is the memory of the FA so short that they do not remember the appalling behaviour of English fans in Dusseldorf in 1988?

A group of German fans were charged before the game by police, who detained 25. Another 87 were arrested after throwing chairs from pavement cafes, and five more were held after a shop was ransacked.

Fortunately the heavy police presence at the impressive refurbished arena enabled the game to pass off peacefully. Had the *gendarmes* been around in such numbers 10 years earlier 'Heysel' may never have happened.

"If this was Brussels, I did not recognise it," said Pierre Selik, owner of a hotel less than a mile from the ground.

Selik remembers all too clearly the night of May 29, 1985, when 39 people died in a riot before the Champions Cup Final. "We had Italians staying with us," he said, "and one of them did not come back. If the police had acted then as they did this time, there would have been no problem. A quarter of the police they had tonight would have been enough last time."

Fresh fields . . . the new-look Heysel stadium

But if the police had erred on the side of caution, the same could not be said of the Red Devils, who were taking the match to their illustrious visitors when young Phillippe Leonard botched an 83rd-minute clearance. Almost apologetically, Fredi Bobic pounced to score the German winner.

The Belgian equaliser, after Andy Moller's opener, had come at the far post from Leonard's Standard Liege team-mate, Michael Goossens, who reacted more quickly than the defence to a low cross from Alain Bettagno.

Anderlecht have turned once more to Raymond Goethals, who at the age of 73 will act as technical adviser to new coach Johan Boskamp, who returns in place of Herbert Neumann, the German coach dismissed after only two months after taking over from . . . Boskamp.

Anderlecht's poor start enabled Standard Liege and Aalst, two of the three clubs to finish closest behind them last season, to set the pace. Both teams won their first four games.

NICHOLAS HARLING

Republic of Ireland

Collins comes back

EVERY YEAR hundreds of young Irish players leave home to pursue their dreams of a full-time career with English clubs.

Those who made the grade are well known . . . the likes of Liam Brady, David O'Leary, Frank Stapleton, Ronnie Whelan and, more recently, Gary Kelly and Mark Kennedy. But for every success story there are 10 times as many others.

Remember Eamonn Collins? He made headlines in September 1980 when he made his first-team debut for Blackpool in an Anglo-Scottish Cup game against Kilmarnock, aged 14 years and 322 days.

Eamonn did not live up to his early potential, and after playing for Southampton, Portsmouth, Colchester and Exeter, he is back home in Dublin, coaching schoolboys.

Coincidentally, Eamonn's younger brother David is also back in Dublin. He played for the Under-21 team and joined Liverpool in 1989, but did not make the first team and later moved to Oxford. Now he has joined Shelbourne.

What do Scotland's Gary Mackay and Latvia's Armands Zeiberlins have in common? They are both heroes in Ireland.

Mackay is remembered as the man who scored the goal that guaranteed the Republic their place in the 1988 European Championship finals. Now Zeiberlins is on his way to becoming a national hero if the Republic qualify for next year's finals. He lifted the hearts of the Irish nation by scoring the winner against Austria in Riga, keeping the Republic in second place in Group 6, ahead of the Austrians.

Shelbourne took the first trophy of the new season, beating Dundalk in the Leinster President's Cup Final. But it was an expensive win, because winger Mark Rutherford broke a leg. Manager Damian Richardson has brought in Mark Smith from Shrewsbury as a temporary replacement.

Steve Cotterill, a former Bournemouth striker, is the new manager of Sligo Rovers. He replaces Lawrie Sanchez, who has returned to Wimbledon to take up a coaching job.

The FAI National League will have its first female referee this season. Maria Lawton from Galway, who has been refereeing for the past eight years, has been promoted to the senior division. Maria is already a successful business woman; she runs her own carpentry firm.

SEAN CREEDON

Portugal

Rivals turn to violence

CHAMPIONS FC Porto and old rivals Sporting dominated the headlines as the Portuguese season began, meeting three times in quick succession.

Sadly the games produced an unsavoury amount of violence, with four players sent off in the first leg of the Supercup, one in the League meeting and one in the second Supercup match.

The overall statistics once the dust had settled showed that Porto had a slight edge, having come from behind to win the League game at home and draw 0-0 away and 2-2 at home in the Supercup. They also had a lead in the dismissal tally, minus two players against minus four.

Supporters are now awaiting the outcome of the Supercup decider, on September 20 at a neutral venue, to be decided.

Domingos Oliveira, Porto's top scorer last season, scored three of the four goals against Sporting, and the winner away to Gil Vicente in his club's second League game. These two victories put Porto level at the top with Vitoria Guimaraes.

Domingos also was the aggrieved party in the 82nd minute of the 2-2 draw, when not-so-Sporting keeper Paolo Costinho fouled him and was shown the red card, to go with the own goal he had conceded in the first half.

So Porto have given early evidence that they will remain hard to beat, despite coach Bobby Robson's absence. He had had to go to London for a nasal operation.

Now Europe beckons, and Robson must have high hopes of progress in the Champions Cup, after being drawn in the same group as Nantes, Panathinaikos and Kiev Dynamo.

Sporting can take some consolation from the form of new striker Ahmed Quattara, who scored an excellent goal in both the first and third games of the series.

But Sporting face possible – though unlikely – demotion to Division Two in a dispute over £2.25m owed to Benfica over transfers. The case has not yet been heard by the authorities.

Benfica started a week late, after finishing fourth of four in the Herrera Tournament in Spain, and won 1-0 away to Tirsense.

The national team made qualification for the European Championship virtually certain with a 7-0 victory in Liechtenstein, Alves scoring three in the second half.

ALBERTO DA SILVA

Sweden

IFK closing the gap

AFTER an off-colour spring IFK Gothenburg are coming into the picture like a good racehorse, just as the Swedish championship is reaching its final stretch.

A scintillating 5-0 away win over Norrkoping was followed by a 3-1 success over Orebro, and IFK are now only a point behind pacesetters Helsingborg.

Hopes of another good run in the Champions League, however, were crushed by Poland's Legia Warsaw. After losing 1-0 away, IFK grabbed a home goal from Jesper Blomqvist, but were then twice caught on the break.

To make matters worse, goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli injured a knee in the first leg and will be absent for at least a month. Ravelli is only five matches away from his 400th appearance in the League.

Sweden's national team showed signs of recovery in their 1-0 win over the United States. Tomas Brolin celebrated his comeback by converting the winner from a penalty, while Stefan Schwarz played his best match for some time.

Orgryte's Bengt Andersson replaced Ravelli in goal, while Malmo's much-vaunted Jorgen Pettersson made his debut in the attack.

IFK have sold international defender Joachim Bjorklund to Vicenza, and there are now five Swedes active in Serie A: Bjorklund, Kennet Andersson (Bari), Brolin (Parma), Jonas Thern (Roma) and Schwarz (Fiorentina).

Norrkoping have signed Soren Andersen, a former top scorer in the Danish League, from Spain's Rayo Vallecano.

PENTTI HIETANEN

Missing from action . . . Thomas Ravelli is out for a month with a knee injury

Denmark

Nielsen makes his mark

ALAN NIELSEN conjured the most astonishing debut goal in Danish soccer history to ensure Denmark remained on course for a chance to defend their title in the European Championships next summer.

Brondby midfielder Nielsen scored 30 seconds after going on as a substitute in the crucial 2-0 victory away in Armenia. He had replaced John Jensen at half-time, and almost immediately sprinted down the left wing. Nielsen intended only to deliver an adequate cross as he tried to settle the nerves pulsing through his body. Instead he saw the ball sail straight into the net past a startled goalkeeper. It ensured a comfortable victory after Michael Laudrup had headed a first-half opener.

The win put Denmark three points clear of rivals Belgium, who they now face in a showdown in Brussels. The mood in Copenhagen is confident.

National team manager Richard Moller Nielsen, the hero of 1992, also revealed that he will step down from power once the campaign has ended, hopefully after competing in Euro '96 next summer.

Naturally, there has been fervent speculation about his successor. The immediate favourite is record cap-holder Morten Olsen, recently sacked by German side Koln.

But there is also support for two former playing stars, Allan Simonsen and Preben Elkjaer. Sepp Piontek, the old coach of the Dynamite team of the 1980s, has said he is not interested, although he has many supporters after a blinding start to his new job in charge of champions Aab Aalborg.

They won the first three League games of the season, including a Superliga record 8-1 victory over Viborg.

Aab also maintained hopes of progressing to the Champions League after being beaten only 1-0 in the away leg to Kiev Dynamo in the qualifying round. But they went down 3-1 in the return leg in Denmark.

Brondby looked certain to go through in the UEFA Cup after a 3-0 home win, but may have trouble hanging on to striker Bo Hansen. The £1.5m rated youngster is a target of English club Tottenham Hotspur among others.

Arsenal's John Jensen appears to have won a Highbury reprieve under new manager Bruce Rioch. He seems set to sign a new two-year contract.

JIM HOLDEN

Iceland

ICELAND's national side suffered their first defeat in five matches this year, going down 2-0 to Switzerland in a European Championship qualifying tie in Reykjavik.

The result, vital to Swiss hopes of qualifying for the finals next year, was decided early in the first half, both goals coming in the first 17 minutes.

There was better luck, however, for Icelandic clubs in European competition.

In the UEFA Cup, champions IA (Akranes) had a comfortable victory over League of Ireland side Shelbourne, winning 3-0 in both legs, while FH (Hafnarfjordu) were unlucky to go down 1-0 on aggregate to Glenavon of Northern Ireland. KR came back from a 3-2 deficit to overcome Luzembourg's Grevenmacher 4-3 on aggregate.

International midfielder Eyjolfur Sverrisson has completed a move from Turkish champions Besiktas to German Second Division outfit Hertha Berlin. Sverrisson played for Bundesliga side VfB Stuttgart before moving to Turkey at the beginning of last season.

At the same time, LA's hopes of a fourth consecutive championship have received a further lift with the return of twin strikers Arnar and Bjarki Gunnlaugsson, on loan from Dutch club Feyenoord.

RAB CHRISTIE

Finland

ANY chance of Finland's reaching the Euro '96 finals were swept aside by the 6-0 defeat to Russia in Helsinki.

Finland were below strength, with Jari Litmanen and Marko Myyry absent from midfield, but that is only a lame excuse for a pitiful showing. There were immediate calls for coach Jukka Ikalainen to resign.

MyPa created a surprise by knocking Motherwell out of the UEFA Cup. In the first leg, the Scots probably underestimated the Finns, going down 3-1, and a 2-0 win in Finland was not enough for Alex McLeish's troops.

Under-21 internationals Sami Hyypia and Joonas Kolkka have been watched by several foreign clubs. MyPa already have turned down a bid by Austria's Casino Salzburg for striker Kolkka.

Last season's champions, TPV Tampere, have sacked coach Jari-Pekka Keurulainen and replaced him with Jussi Ristimaki, who guided FC Jazz to the championship in 1993.

PENTTI HIETANEN

Luxembourg

AVENIR BEGGEN are Luxembourg's sole survivor in Europe, thanks to Orebro's carelessness during the second leg of their UEFA clash.

The Swedes fielded an ineligible player – an 'assimilated' man should have been classified as a foreigner – and were disqualified, so Beggen, who had failed at home after drawing 0-0 away, go through to face Lens.

Jeunesse lost to Lugano after a home draw, thus missing a lucrative tie against Internazionale, and Grevenmacher fell to KR Reykjavik in the Cup-winners Cup.

● LIECHTENSTEIN coach Detrich Weise was none too saddened by the 7-0 home defeat by Portugal in the European Championship qualifiers. "We are constantly learning and have many years to catch up." he said.

TIM BRICE

Greece

Losers earn win bonus

THE only consolation for the Greek national team after the 1-0 defeat by Scotland in Glasgow was that they received a winning bonus from the Greek Soccer Federation.

The Greeks played perhaps their best match in the European Championship, but the result virtually wiped out any chance of qualifying.

Coach Costas Polychroniou, dejected with the result but happy with his team's performance, said: "Our opponents were lucky. They scored one goal from two chances. We were often close to scoring but did not have much luck. The team played as if they were playing on their home pitch. I'm proud of them."

Olympiakos Piraeus coach Stavros Diamantopoulos expects his team to win the First Division title this season. "We are working non-stop to reach our goals, and we will all talk with deeds on the pitch and not with words," he said.

Certainly Olympiakos should have scoring punch in Polish Andrzej Juskowiak and Serbian Ilia Ivic.

Defending champions Panathinaikos Athens hosted a one-day international tournament at the Olympic Stadium in honour of the late Culture Minister and international film star Melina Mercouri. Her films included one called Stella, in which she had a romance with a Greek footballer.

Some 10,000 fans saw three 45-minute matches between Monterey of Mexico – the winners – Panathinaikos and Estudiantes of Argentina. Proceeds go towards the creation of a new Acropolis Museum, which was Mercouri's dream.

The Greek Cup started the season with a nasty incident when an angry Olympiakos Volos fan threw a bottle of water at a linesman, Apostolos Tsimotoudis, striking him in the neck and leaving him unconscious for a short time. Panathinaikos won the match 1-0.

LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

Turkey

Aumann takes the blame

THERE ARE 47 foreign players in Turkey's top division – and there are no prizes for guessing the unhappiest.

Raimond Aumann, the 31-year-old German international goalkeeper, is under heavy fire from fans and media after his club, Besiktas, made a disastrous start to the season.

Draws in the opening two League games, 1-1 at Kayserispor and 2-2 at home to Genclerbiligi, shows Aumann to be below his best, and worse followed when he was beaten from 30 yards for one of Rosenborg's goals in the Champions Cup preliminary round in Norway.

Besiktas lost 3-0, and despite a good recovery in the second leg, which brought a 3-1 victory, they were eliminated.

Manager Christoph Daum had spent more than £7million on new talent in the hope of making a good show in Europe, so the financial cost of that early exit is likely to be enormous.

Galatasaray also took a knock in Europe, losing 4-2 on aggregate to Sparta Prague after winning their first two domestic games

The 3-1 defeat in Prague led to some criticism of manager Graeme Souness, with international Kubilay Turkyilmaz commenting: "My ideal position is on the left of the attack, but now I am being used in midfield."

Fenerbahce opened with two League victories, despite injuries to Feyyaz and Aykut, and beat Partizan Tirana 2-0 and 4-0 in the UEFA Cup preliminary round home and away legs.

President Ali Sen said: "When we were rebuilding our squad we ensured that we got two quality players for each position, so we don't need to worry about injuries." And manager Carlos Alberto Parreira pointed out: "The players are making quick progress in adapting to my system."

Fenerbahce fans are expecting big things this season, and all 3,800 season-ticket seats have been sold – at a cost of £2,083 each.

Much-travelled coach Leo Beenhakker's new club, Istanbulspor, began badly, losing their first two games 3-1.

The 47 foreigners in Turkey's first Division come from 29 countries. Thirteen clubs now have an African on the books; and there are five South Africans, two Canadians and even a Norwegian.

HASAN CEMALI

Under fire . . . German keeper Raimond Aumann

Albania

CHAMPIONS FK Tirana lost their coach and their leading player, but were still title favourites when the new season began.

The coach, Shkelqim Muca, left the club after a UEFA Cup defeat by Hapoel Beersheba of Israel – he had repeatedly expressed discontent with his situation – and last season's top scorer, 18-goal Indrid Fortuzi, joined First Vienna.

Even so, president Metush Sferi remained optimistic, saying: "It's the start of a new era. We have all the trump cards we need to achieve our objectives."

Partizani, hungry for a 16th championship, are FK's biggest rivals. General manager Suleman Starova makes no secret of their determination to win both League and Cup, and international midfielder Arben Milori, formerly with Dinamo, has been recruited to help.

GEZIM NUSHI

Malta

VALLETTA and Floriana won the two official season-openers to the Maltese season – the Lowenbrau Cup and the Super 5 tournament.

Valletta beat both Sliema and champions Hibernians 1-0 to lift the first, and the second went to Ron Fenton's Floriana, who beat both Sliema and Valletta.

Champions Hibernians will have to get better quickly. Their experimental formats lost both Lowenbrau matches to Sliema and Valletta, then again to Valletta (on penalties) and finally won, again on penalties, against Sliema Wanderers in the Super 5.

Another blow to Brian Talbot's side was the surprisingly heavy 7-2 aggregate defeat by Ukraine's Chernomorets in the UEFA preliminary round. The Paolites could not get to grips with the simple but efficient way of playing football displayed by the Ukrainians.

In the same competition Sliema were beaten 5-1 on aggregate by Omonia Nicosia of Cyprus, and in the Cup-winners Cup, Inter Bratislava won 5-2 against Valletta, who still seem to be the favourites for the title alongside Hibernians.

DOMENICO AQUILINA

Israel

THE close season came to an eventful end during August as Israel's National League clubs made their final preparations for the start of the new season.

Maccabi Tel Aviv missed out on the UEFA Champions League but Maccabi Haifa advanced to the first round of the Cup-winners Cup.

In the UEFA Cup, southern side Hapoel Beersheva, reached the first round proper at the second attempt when they overcame SC Tirana of Albania, but Hapoel Tel Aviv, making their European debut failed to get past Zimbru Chisinau of Moldova.

Maccabi Haifa also pulled off one of the coups of the close season when they signed young Uruguayan midfielder Edgardo Adinolfi, a member of the recent Copa America squad.

The national side beat Hungary 2-0 in their last warm-up match before taking on Slovakia in their European Championship qualifier. National coach Shlomo Scharf was without Ronny Rosenthal and prolific striker Ronnen Harazi, who was recovering from a stomach muscle injury

ORI LEWIS

Romania

Watch out for Adrian

CHAMPIONS Steaua were soon in their stride after friendlies in Bournemouth and Reading, the only blot on the landscape being the poor performances in Glasgow at the Rangers pre-season tournament.

Back in Bucharest, the champions defeated Cup-winners Petrolul Ploesti to take the Romanian Super-Cup 2-0, and showed little signs of missing schemer Besarab Panduru, now with Benfica, and international goalkeeper Dumitru Stingaciu, now in Turkey with Samsunspor. Bogdan Stelea has returned to take his place.

Steaua kicked off the domestic campaign with a 2-1 win in Iasi against 'Poli' and followed with five goals at home to the students of 'Poli' Timisoara to go top.

The veteran Lacatus was in lively form and already has three goals to his credit – encouraging as Steaua went in to the return with the Austrian champions, Casino Salzburg. A classic 0-0 in Salzburg set up the return, won with 19-year-old Adrian Ilie's goal separating the teams and giving the Romanian Champions a path to the Champions League.

Ilie seems to be yet another top Steaua striker. He went to Bucharest in 1993 from 'E' Craiova, where he had been top scorer in his first season with 12 goals.

Dress rehearsal . . . Steaua's Rosu challenges Wright of Rangers in Glasgow's pre-season tournament

Steaua are joined in the first round by Cup-winners Petrolul, surprisingly narrow victors over Wrexham, but not by Universitatea Craoiva or Dinamo, who fell at the preliminary hurdle in the UEFA Cup.

Levski managed a goal in Bucharest to add to their one in Sofia, where Dinamo could not score, and took the tie 2-1 on aggregate. 'U' went even closer but lost on penalties in Minsk to the White Russian Dinamoes, after a goalless aggregate tie.

BOB VAUGHAN

Czech Republic

The smoke is blown away

A POINT in Oslo, for the moment, blew away the smoke of last season's sleaze, talk of refereeing, and the threat of a split in the League.

Now coach Dusan Uhrin has to motivate his troops for a last push towards the finals of Euro '96, and he begins with the return match against the Norwegians in Prague.

Since the 1-1 draw in the Ullevi, this key match has become a sell-out. The renovated Sparta Stadium will be bursting at the seams, because this really is the last chance despite a one-point advantage over the Dutch. They have arguably the easier fixtures and finish at home to Norway, who probably will not need any more points by then anyway.

Uhrin seems to have healed most of last season's rifts, and the Czechs will rely on skill against physically bigger and well organised opponents. The team will have been encouraged by European successes in the preliminaries, when Slavia Prague knocked out Sturm Graz, largely due to an unexpected win in Austria, and Sparta Prague accounted for Graeme Souness and his Galatasaray side.

That also masks a modest start in the domestic League, where matters off the field are proving as interesting as on. It would be comic if it were not serious.

The disciplinary commission at the CMFA (FA) are being kept very busy following the accusations and counter claims of officials and referees and the State Prosecutor is now involved.

The first 'victim' – how unusual – is a referee, Roman Berbr, who made accusations against a Slavia director, Frankisek Cipro, but then apologised in writing.

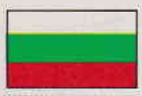
Berbr has received a six-month ban from officiating matches for bringing Czech football in to disrepute.

A second top man in black, Lubomir Pucek, refused to withdraw his accusations against Sigma Olomouc and Petra Drnovice who, he claims attempted to bribe him.

The case has been handed over to the police after hours of fruitless discussion at the FA.

Meanwhile three Prague clubs, Sparta, Slavia and Viktoria Zizkov met to discuss having their own independent League. Who would be their opposition?

BOB VAUGHAN



Bulgaria

Sheiks cause some serious shocks

THE MID-AUGUST start brought some big home wins for Levski Kustendil, 3-0 over Spartak Plovdiv; Neftochimik, 5-2 against coastal rivals Spartak Varna; and CSKA, 3-0 over Botev Plovdiv.

Levski Sofia began well at Lok Plovdiv but the Blues had the blues when losing their second game, at home to Neftochimik, who have the top scorer, Petkov, with five after only two games.

We wait to see if they can go on as they have begun once minds elsewhere are no longer focused on international football. At least they have gone longer than anyone else in not dropping any points.

The club, sponsored by the local refineries, are not called 'The Oil Sheiks' for nothing. They are not Levski's favourite opponents! The champions have not beaten them for five years, and last season went out on their own ground to Burgas in the Cup.

While keeping an eye on the domestic League, national manager Dimitar Penev has his usual problem gathering his far-flung squad from all over Europe's championships. Stoichkov, now at Parma, will hardly have any Serie A football under his belt when the Bulgarians begin a series of three away matches in Group 7 of the European qualifying tournament, separated by a visit to Tirana in October.

Qualification is there for the taking and even defeat in their last match, in Germany, should not prevent Bulgaria from reaching the finals.

Although the country was in from the start when the European Nations Cup began in 1958-59 with its initial qualifying round – Bulgaria drew home and away with old rivals Yugoslavia and lost in Belgrade after a 1-1 draw in Sofia – the 'tickets for England' will be a first on the European finals stage.

Between now and then there are four matches to be played and much can happen, the only thing certain being that Penev will be out of a job if second place is not achieved.

BOB VAUGHAN

Out of practice . . . Parma's top dog Hristo Stoichkov

Russia

Cherchesov checks in

MOSCOW SPARTAK have made three big signings in a desperate effort to catch up with Spartak Vladikavkaz, the runaway leaders.

Midfielder Vasily Kulkov and striker Sergei Yuran were both recruited from Portuguese champions FC Porto, and now a third Russian international, goalkeeper Stanislav Cherchesov, has followed them back to Moscow.

Cherchesov was keen to return to Russia after his period with Dynamo Dresden had ended with the club's compulsory demotion from the Bundesliga, because of financial irregularities.

He and Kulkov helped the national team to a remarkable 6-0 victory in Finland, which put Russia top on goal difference in Group Eight of the European Championship qualifying programme.

They also have a game in hand over both Scotland and the Finns, and now seem certain to be among the nations playing in England next year.

VICTOR GUSEV

Russian return . . . Spartak striker Yuran

Georgia

Kakha's out

THE preliminary round in Europe turned out to be fatal for two of the three Georgian clubs: champions Dinamo Tblisi and runners-up Samtredia could not score in four games.

But Cup-finalists Dynamo Batumi, on their debut, beat FC Obilic of Yugoslavia 3-2 on aggregate.

The captain of Georgia, Kakha Tskhadadze of Eintracht Frankfurt, was seriously injured during an Intertoto Cup game, underwent an eight-hour operation, and is out for at least six months.

After three games of the Premier League, Torpedo Kutaisi and Metallurg Rustavi are on top.

The best player of last season – goalkeeper Akaki Devadze of Dinamo Tblisi – has signed a two-year contract with Russia's Rostselmash.

ZURA MEDZVELIA

Croatia

Row follows Wembley cancellation

PLAYERS, fans and officials in Croatia were all bitterly disappointed at the decision to call off the proposed match against England at Wembley in September.

The English view was that their FA had no choice other than to scrap the match in view of the civil strife in the former Yugoslavia, but many Croatians feel that there was an over-reaction to the media reports of the situation.

The Football Federation president, Nadan Vidosevic, was in no doubt. He described the decision as "a political game" and added: "There is no other explanation. The situation in Croatia, and the former Yugoslavia in general, is much calmer than when we first arranged the match.

"The circumstances were much worse when we played Spain in Valencia and Israel in Tel Aviv."

UEFA also upset the Croatians by ruling that Hajduk Split had to play a Champions Cup game in Rijeka, nearly 300 kilometres away, instead of on their own ground – where last season they had staged five European matches without incident.

Such was the friendly atmosphere that some fans of one visiting club, Benfica, have since returned to Split for a short holiday. The 'home' game followed a 0-0 draw against Panathinaikos in Athens, and Hajduk lost out to the Greek champions in the return leg.

The new season began a week late, because of the civil war, and under a new system that is confusing to say the least.

To begin with there is one group of 12 clubs and another of 10. For the second half of the programme, the 24 clubs are split into one group of six and two groups of eight, and eventually six leading teams will play off for the title.

Is that clear?

● ONE Hadjuk player, Milan Rapaic, put himself out of the game for two weeks in a bizarre manner. He was waiting for a plane when he inadvertently stuck his plastic boarding pass into an eye!

ZDRAVKO REIC

Yugoslavia

NOTHING seems to be in the right place these days where Yugoslavia is concerned. Football is no exception.

The national team are now 86th in the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking, well behind countries without any substantial football tradition, while their best players have renewed or signed new lucrative, multi-million contracts with the European giants.

Savicevic (Milan), Jugovic (Juventus), Mihajlovic (AS Roma), Perovic (Cremonese), Milosevic (Aston Villa), Mijatovic (Valencia), Djukic and Milovanovic (La Coruna), Jokanovic (Tenerife), Petric (Rangers) . . . and so the list goes on.

A change in UEFA's coefficient system placed Yugoslavia on the European bottom with Latvia and Georgia. So Red Star and Partizan, in the very best circumstances, cannot hope to play in the Champions League before the next century.

MIROLJUB STOJKOVIC

Latvia

UEFA have overturned a Cup-winners Cup result between two Baltic teams because the match-winning goal-scorer should not have been playing.

UEFA's disciplinary committee decided to award DAG Liepaja a 3-0 win against Estonia's Lantana in their preliminary round, first leg tie.

The Estonians won the original game 2-1, but Andrei Borisov, who scored the 77th-minute winner, had not served a three-match suspension imposed two seasons ago. DAG went through to face Feyenoord in the first round.

Slovakia

EUROPEAN preliminaries brought good news to the capital, Bratislava, but disappointment to the east, where there has been something of a revival in the fortunes of the Kosice clubs since the introduction of the Slovak National League.

FC Kosice, who did not deserve to lose to Hungarian neighbours Ujpest in Kosice, went out in Budapest, 3-1 on aggregate.

The unfortunate NK Osijek players had only their situation in Eastern Slavonia on their minds when they went to Bratislava and lost 4-0. Slovan also took the return, 2-0.

In the Cup-winners Cup, Inter reached the first round via a 0-0 draw in Valetta and a 5-2 win in Bratislava, and now play the holders, Real Zaragoza, in the first round.

Euro '96 is a write-off despite the 1-0 win over Azerbaijan and a home tie with Israel to come. Mathematically Slovakia could reach England by winning all three home games, against Israel, Romania and Poland, but the odds are very long.

BOB VAUGHAN

Poland

THE new domestic season began strangely for defending champions Legia Warsaw, who had to play their opening match without spectators – a sequel to the violence at the Cup Final in June.

Legia started with three straight wins and then had another, against IFK Gothenburg in the preliminary round of the Champions Cup. They held out in the return to reach the Champions League.

In the UEFA Cup, Widzew Lodz eased into the first round with a 5-0 win over Bangor City.

League leaders, on goal difference after three matches, are the club with three names. Olimpia Poznan and Lechia Gdansk merged – despite opposition from the FA – and took Olimpia as their title while playing on the Lechia ground. But the fans insist on calling the hybrid club Lechia Gdansk, while the media call them Olimpia-Lechia!

DARIUSZ KUROWSKI

Hungary

EURO '96 may be a dead duck for Hungary, but the progress of Ferencvaros into the Champions League has, for the moment, restored faith.

Fradi's unexpected 1-0 victory at Parc Astrid was followed by an end-to-end match at Ulloi, with both sides missing chances before Kopunovics dealt Anderlecht the deadly blow.

VAC went out of the Cup-winners Cup to FC Sileks of Macedonia, while Ujpesti TE squeezed past FC Kosice, to fight another round.

BOB VAUGHAN

Geordies' Gallic flair

AFTER the opening four games of the season, Newcastle United are the only FA Premiership team with a 100 per cent record.

Kevin Keegan's summer investments – goalkeeper Shaka Hislop, England defender Warren Barton, French international David Ginola and England striker Les Ferdinand – all look right at home on Tyneside, and have helped the Magpies to a two-point lead at the top of the table.

Ginola, the French international signed from Paris SG for £2.5million during the summer, looks like the pick of the buys, and a great bargain too. Operating wide on the left side of midfield, Ginola's rare combination of pace, ball skills and vision have given Newcastle a different dimension.

Manager Kevin Keegan is certainly a big fan. "He is a world-class player," said Keegan. "He has got the lot . . . pace, trickery and vision, and you are not supposed to have all three."

The main beneficiary is Les Ferdinand, the man usually on the end of Ginola's crosses. Ferdinand, showing no signs of apprehension following his £6million move from QPR, has scored four times in the opening four games, including the winner in the Tyne-Tees derby against newly-promoted Middlesbrough.

Newcastle's nearest challengers are Leeds United, still unbeaten after four games, and more than matching their billing as one of the title favourites.

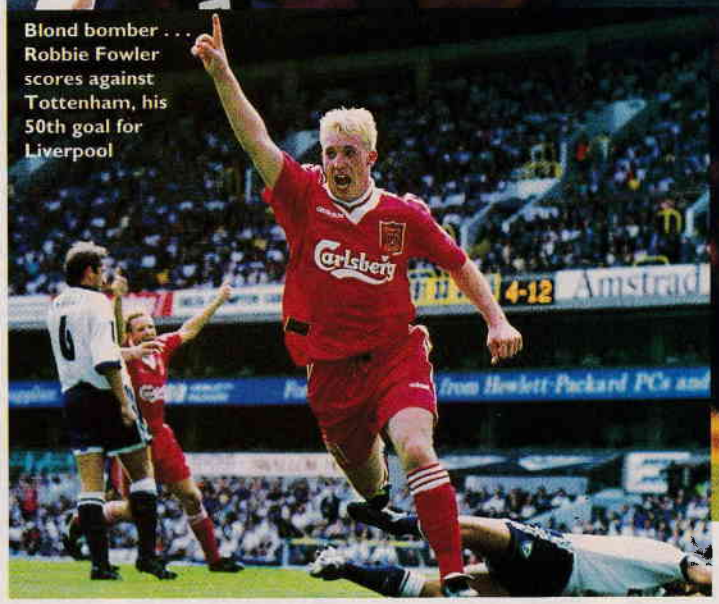
Leeds, who have fielded virtually the same line-up since last February, and are top of the form table over the last six months, look solid from top to bottom, and have found a real gem in Tony Yeboah.

The Ghanaian striker scored twice in the opening-day victory at West Ham, and then connected with a magnificent volley – already a candidate for goal of the season – at Elland Road as Leeds beat Liverpool 1-0. Howard Wilkinson, pragmatic as ever, is playing down talk of title victories, but he must know that this current Leeds side is as good as the one which took the title in 1992. Then, a foreign striker (Eric Cantona) propelled Leeds to the top, and Yeboah looks as though he could have the same effect.

Liverpool, despite the defeat at Elland Road, are third and looking a real threat. Stan Collymore lived up to his colossal price tag with a wonderful goal on the opening day, against Sheffield Wednesday, and then limped out of the defeat at Leeds with an ankle injury.

But, such is the competition for places at Anfield this season, he was hardly missed at White Hart Lane as Liverpool tore Tottenham apart with an outstanding all-round display. John Barnes scored twice, the second being his 100th goal for Liverpool, while Collymore's replacement, Robbie Fowler, added a third with his 50th goal for the club in a totally one-sided 3-1 win (even Tottenham's goal was scored, late on, by Barnes).

French toast . . . David Ginola is a new Tyneside hero



Blond bomber . . . Robbie Fowler scores against Tottenham, his 50th goal for Liverpool

Highbury hero . . . David Platt enjoys his goal against Forest

All this, and with a patched up defence too. Roy Evans is without injured John Scales and Stig Bjornebye, but their replacements, Mark Wright and Steve Harkness, have hardly put a foot wrong. Sounds familiar? It should. When Liverpool dominated English football in the 1970s and early '80s, fierce competition for places was one of the crucial factors, and Evans has engineered a similar situation now. In attack, for instance, he is forced to choose two from Collymore, Fowler and Ian Rush – surely, an embarrassment of riches.

Defending champions Blackburn have made a shaky start to their defence, losing three of their opening four games including a home defeat by the kids from Manchester United. Alex Ferguson's patched up side included seven players with an average age of 21 on the opening day, and 'Fergie's Fledglings' have done him and the club proud. Following the crash at Aston Villa, who have made their best start to a season for almost two decades, United have won three in a row, and still have Cantona to come.

Arsenal are three points behind United, but have yet to really gel together. Dennis Bergkamp has yet to score, putting him under pressure, but he has struck up a good understanding with Ian Wright. David Platt has made a better start, scoring twice in four games, but then announced after scoring against Nottingham Forest that he would be out for a month after a knee operation. His timing was particularly strange, given that Terry Venables had named him in his England squad just 24 hours earlier and yet he was fit to face Forest.

Other foreign imports finding the net include Coventry's Brazilian Isaias and Sheffield Wednesday's Belgian Marc Degryse. No such luck for Ruud Gullit at Chelsea, who have yet to win.

JOHN KELLY

Scotland

Staggered start draws the fans

THE Scottish season featured an uncharacteristic staggered start, with a variety of competitions before the Premier Division fixtures began.

First Europe, with Rangers and Raith Rovers winning the preliminary round ties of their respective competitions and Motherwell losing theirs, followed by the Coca-Cola Cup, with two rounds of the tournament having been played before serious Premier action began.

There was even an important international game, and Scotland defeated Greece at Hampden in the unusual setting of a warm and balmy summer's evening in mid-August. Somehow it just did not seem right.

Scottish fans tends to associate such games with ice-cold, foggy November, but a marvellous headed goal from Ally McCoist was enough to beat the Greeks and to bring back memories of those great nights of the past, when the Scottish national team really meant something to the country's footballing public.

Qualification for Euro '96 in England could be enough to restore the patriotic factor, a feature which has been missing with regard to the national team for several years.

By the time the first Premier League exchanges had taken place, appetites had been suitably whetted by the various preliminaries, and there was no doubt that the level of interest in the game was significantly higher than had been evident in recent years.

Perhaps this was due to Paul Gascoigne's arrival. It may have been Celtic's acquisition of German international Andreas Thom; it may even have been the fact that most Premier Division clubs now have, or are very close to having, impressive new all-seated stadia which make watching football a more civilised pastime - albeit more expensive.

Bearing in mind that this is one of those years with no World Cup or European Championship to focus on during the summer, it was a particularly long close season, even though the InterToto Cup provided a mild distraction for Partick fans. There was no doubt that by the time August came along Scotland's football junkies were desperate for an initial fix, hence the encouraging attendances at the opening games.

Gazza, of course, made his mark in customary style. His competitive debut for Rangers against Anorthosis Famagusta of Cyprus in the Champions Cup (amazingly his first taste of European competition) was somewhat low key, but in his inaugural domestic game, a Coca-Cola Cup tie against Morton, Gascoigne charmed the Ibrox crowd with a memorable goal in a 3-0 victory.

This goal sparked off yet another wave of business for Glasgow hairdressers, as legions of Rangers fans besieged the city's salons demanding the cropped, bleached style which Gascoigne has made his own.

No such style statements at Celtic Park, although Celtic midfielder Peter Grant did threaten to have his hair dyed green for the season's first Old Firm game. Thom prefers to set his trends purely on the field of play.

He quickly endeared himself to Parkhead fans with the opening goal in his team's 3-0 win at Ayr, and the signs are that he may be able to transpose the skills obtained in the Bundesliga to the vastly differing environment of the Scottish League.

ALAN FAIRLEY

Flying Scotsmen ... Ally McCoist (centre), Craig Burley (left) and John Roberston celebrate the winner against Greece

Northern Ireland

Millar makes vital move

LINFIELD finally made the big signing that their fans had been waiting for following the controversial departure of Garry Haylock at the start of the summer.

Midfielder or striker Paul Millar, 28, was signed from Cardiff City for around £30,000, after eight seasons in English League football, and he certainly should improve the team's chances of regaining the championship from Crusaders. Unfortunately Millar was not signed in time to play for the Blues in their Cup-winners Cup tie against Ukrainians Donetsk.

Another new player, Darren Erskine, a striker from Ards, did make the deadline, and impressed in the opening games.

Crusaders have recruited midfielder Donal O'Brien, who was with Glentoran last term. Dubliner O'Brien has joined the large "foreign" contingent at Seaview, which includes fellow Southerners Martin Murray and Liam Dunne in midfield, Peter Eccles in the centre of defence and full-back Derek Carroll, and Scottish goalkeeper Kevin McKeown, Northern Ireland's Player of the Year. Two of the favourites for the one promotion spot available out of the new First Division, Ballymena and Coleraine, have adopted different policies in their bid for success.

Ballymena manager Alan Fraser has signed seven newcomers - and reckons more could be on the way. The new boys include Mark McWalter from Coleraine and Ally Mauchlen from Glenavon.

His counterpart at Coleraine, Kenny Shiels, has contented himself with taking on board 21-year-old midfielder Tony Oatway from Cardiff City and 38-year-old defender Jim Hagan – former manager of Larne – who finished last season playing for Crusaders, and should add a wealth of experience to a youngish squad, having played in England, Spain, USA, Hong Kong and Sweden. Coleraine will be his 13th club as a player.

Larne have formed a link with Millwall, and will provide a nursery for the First Division London club – a move that hopefully will prove beneficial to both parties.

ROY KITSON

Wales

Gould aiming to 'do a Charlton'

THE appointment was something of a surprise decision, but few have been pessimistic about the selection of Bobby Gould as new manager of the Welsh national team.

Gould, former manager at Bristol Rovers, Coventry City, West Bromwich Albion and Wimbledon, in their 1988 FA Cup triumph, was an outsider among the applicants.

His enthusiasm for the job filtered through to the six-man sub-committee appointed to vet the numerous candidates, and in a post-selection conference that enthusiasm was obvious. "It is a great honour to be appointed manager of Wales and the aim is to reach the World Cup Finals in France," he said.

The remaining three qualifiers in the European Championship are important to this end, as positive results will improve the seeding place in the qualifying draw.

"A lot of people may be surprised that an Englishman has been given the job, but if I can achieve what Jack Charlton has done with Eire then people will not be too worried," Gould continued. "I will be going to matches the length and breadth of Wales and I plan to be an ambassador in the international arena."

Both UEFA Cup representatives made their exit at the first stage, but under different circumstances.

Bangor City, the League champions, were unfortunate to come up against one of the best sides in the competition, Widzew Lodz, and went down 4-0 at home. A fighting display in the away leg led to a 1-0 defeat, but they did themselves proud.

Afan Lido were desperately unlucky to lose their home leg 2-1 to RAF Jelgava of Latvia, and a 0-0 draw away, although the first 'point' gained by a Welsh club in the UEFA Cup, was not enough.

In the Cup-winners Cup, Wrexham were held to a goalless draw by Petrolul Ploesti, and then lost 1-0 in Romania.

In a new twist to the case of the remaining rebel clubs, FIFA now have instructed the FAW to drop legal action, with the world body prepared to take over the matter directly.

MEL AP IOR THOMAS

Champions

The UEFA Champions League is the most prestigious club competition in football, and now you can take part by accepting WORLD SOCCER'S Champions Challenge. By entering our unique competition, you can win tickets to the 1996 Champions Cup Final

It's the ultimate fanatasy football game. The *WORLD SOCCER* Champions Challenge competition gives you the chance to play Bobby Robson, Jorge Valdano and Marcello Lippi at their own game, picking players from the best teams in Europe to form your own dream team. And you can win tickets to the 1996 European Champions Cup Final into the bargain.

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Study the list of players registered to play in the 1995-96 UEFA Champions League. Then select 11 players for your team. Team managers will be awarded points based on goals scored and conceded by your players during the Champions League group games, quarter-finals and semi-finals.

TEAM SELECTION

Your team must comprise one goalkeeper, four defenders, four midfielders and two forwards.

You must not select any more than two players from each club. For the purposes of the competition, players listed will be registered with their clubs for the duration of the season.

You have a maximum of £45million to spend.

THE SCORING

HOW YOU WIN POINTS

2 points for each forward scoring
4 points for each mid-fielder scoring
6 points for each defender scoring
2 points for each defender and goalkeeper keeping a clean sheet.

HOW YOU LOSE POINTS

1 point lost for every goal conceded by your defender and goalkeeper
3 points lost for each player scoring an own goal

Points will be allocated based on the official statistics supplied to ***WORLD SOCCER*** by UEFA.

HOW TO ENTER

Complete the coupon below, listing your players, **their code numbers** and a name for your team, **attach it to the back of a sealed envelope and send to: *WORLD SOCCER*, PO Box 3167, Billericay, Essex, CM12 9DD.**
The closing date for entries is Friday October 13 1995

TRANSFERS

Through the season we will be publishing updated lists of the leading teams. You'll be able to buy and sell players at the end of the group stage and before the quarter-finals. More details on this next month.

THE PRIZE

WE'LL be giving away two tickets to the 1996 Champions Cup Final to the team manager with the most points at the end of the competition. Full details of the prize will be given once the venue for the Final is announced.

Your line up

Position	Code No	Player	Club	Fee
GK				
DF				
DF				
DF				
DF				
MF				
MF				
MF				
ST				
ST				
ST				

for official use only

your team number is

Total Fee

Your team name

(not more than 35 characters, offensive names will be rejected)

Your name

(If you live outside the U.K.. please write 'overseas' in the section marked 'county')

Address

County

Postcode

s Challenge

Goalkeepers

Code	Player	Team	Fee (£m)
200	Edwin Van Der Sar	AJAX	2.8
202	Fred Grim	AJAX	0.6
203	Tim Flowers	BLAC	3.0
204	Bobby Mimms	BLAC	0.4
205	Matt Dickins	BLAC	0.3
206	Stefan Klos	BORU	2.1
207	Wolfgang De Beer	BORU	0.7
208	Attila Hajdu	FERC	2.1
209	Jozsef Szeiler	FERC	0.4
220	Roberto Bockli	GRAS	0.5
222	Pascal Zuberbuhler	GRAS	1.0
223	Angelo Peruzzi	JUVE	3.0
224	Michaelangelo Rampulla	JUVE	0.5
225	Alexander Shovkovski	KIEV	0.8
226	Andrei Kovtun	KIEV	0.7
227	Grzegorz Szamotulski	LEGI	0.7
228	Tomasz Borkowski	LEGI	0.6
229	Dominique Casagrande	NANT	2.0
230	David Marraud	NANT	0.5
232	Jozef Wandzik	PANA	2.0
233	Antonios Nikopolidis	PANA	0.4
234	Vitor Baia	PORT	3.2
235	Vitor Novoa	PORT	0.6
236	Silvino	PORT	1.7
237	Andy Goram	RANG	2.7
238	Billy Thomson	RANG	0.4
239	Francisco Buyo	REAL	3.2
240	Jose Canizares	REAL	2.0
242	Ola By Rise	ROSE	1.1
243	Jorn Jamtfall	ROSE	0.3
244	Stanislav Cherchesov	SPAR	2.0
245	Dmitri Tyapushkin	SPAR	1.5
246	Bogdan Stelea	STEA	1.8
247	Dumitru Stingaciu	STEA	1.2

Defenders

Code	Player	Team	Fee (£m)
300	Danny Blind	AJAX	2.5
302	Frank De Boer	AJAX	3.0
303	Michael Reiziger	AJAX	2.7
304	Sonny Silooy	AJAX	2.0
305	Winston Bogarde	AJAX	0.8
306	Marcio Santos	AJAX	3.0
307	Jeff Kenna	BLAC	1.2
308	Henning Berg	BLAC	2.2
309	Colin Hendry	BLAC	2.7
320	Graeme Le Saux	BLAC	2.5
322	Ian Pearcev	BLAC	0.8
323	Paul Warhurst	BLAC	0.9
324	Nicky Marker	BLAC	0.5
325	Julio Cesar	BORU	2.2
326	Martin Kree	BORU	0.8
327	Marco Kurz	BORU	0.8
328	Gunter Kutowski	BORU	1.2
329	Jurgen Kohler	BORU	3.2
330	Matthias Sammer	BORU	3.5
332	Bodo Schmidt	BORU	1.1
333	Janos Hrutka	FERC	0.5
334	Jozsef Keller	FERC	1.0
335	Tibor Simon	FERC	1.2
336	Andras Telek	FERC	1.2
337	Szergej Kuznyecov	FERC	0.7
338	Akos Koller	FERC	0.8
339	Harald Gamperle	GRAS	1.2
340	Mats Gren	GRAS	1.8
342	Pascal Thuler	GRAS	0.9
343	Ramon Vega	GRAS	1.1
344	Alain Geiger	GRAS	2.2
345	Massimo Carrera	JUVE	1.0
346	Ciro Ferrara	JUVE	1.8
347	Pierto Vierchowod	JUVE	2.5
348	Luca Fusi	JUVE	2.0
349	Sergio Porrini	JUVE	1.1
350	Moreno Torricelli	JUVE	2.0
352	Gianluca Pessotto	JUVE	1.0
353	Alessio Tacchinardi	JUVE	0.8
354	Alessandro Orlando	JUVE	1.5
355	Juan Pablo Sorin	JUVE	1.5
356	Oleg Luzhny	KIEV	1.2
357	Sergei Shmatovalenko	KIEV	1.4
358	Sergei Bezhenar	KIEV	0.8
359	Vladislav Vashchuk	KIEV	1.5
360	Andrei Khomin	KIEV	1.5
362	Alexander Golovko	KIEV	1.6
363	Yuri Dmitrulin	KIEV	1.0
364	Sergei Balanchuk	KIEV	1.1
365	Zbigniew Mandziejewicz	LEGI	0.7
366	Piotr Mosor	LEGI	0.7
367	Marek Jozwiak	LEGI	1.2
368	Jacek Zielinski	LEGI	0.5
369	Krzysztof Ratajczyk	LEGI	0.8
370	Eddy Capron	NANT	0.8
372	Jean-Marc Chanelet	NANT	0.8
373	Eric Decroix	NANT	1.0
374	Laurent Guyot	NANT	0.8
375	Serge Le Dizet	NANT	0.7
376	Efstratios Apostolakis	PANA	2.5
377	Georgios S. Georgiadis	PANA	0.6
378	Ioannis Kalitzakis	PANA	1.5
379	Georgios Kapouranis	PANA	1.4
380	Athanasios Kolitsidakis	PANA	1.7
382	Leonidas Christodoulou	PANA	0.9
383	Joao [Domingos] Pinto	PORT	2.0
384	Aloisio	PORT	1.8
385	Jorge Costa	PORT	2.2
386	Ze Carlos	PORT	2.1
387	Rui Jorge	PORT	2.0
388	Fernando Bandeirinha	PORT	1.5
389	Paulinho Santos	PORT	1.7
390	Paulo Lino	PORT	1.6
392	Joao [Manuel] Pinto	PORT	2.7
393	Stephen Wright	RANG	1.0
394	David Robertson	RANG	1.2
395	Gordan Petric	RANG	1.5
396	Richard Gough	RANG	2.5
397	Gary Bollan	RANG	0.6
398	Brian Reid	RANG	0.6
399	Alan McLaren	RANG	2.4
400	Miguel Soler	REAL	3.0
402	Chendo	REAL	1.8
403	Nando	REAL	2.0
404	Manuel Sanchis	REAL	2.5
405	Mikel Lasa	REAL	1.9
406	Rafael Alkorta	REAL	2.7
407	Quique Flores	REAL	2.7
408	Jose Garcia Calvo	REAL	0.7
409	Bjorn Otto Bragstad	ROSE	0.4
420	Jon Olav Hjelde	ROSE	0.4
422	Erik Hoftun	ROSE	0.3
423	Bjorn Tore Kvarme	ROSE	0.4
424	Arne Winsnes	ROSE	0.5
425	Espen Solheim	ROSE	0.8
426	Stale Stensaas	ROSE	0.4
427	Jan Halvor Halvorsen	ROSE	0.9
428	Andrei Afanasiev	SPAR	1.0
429	Viktor Onopko	SPAR	2.7
430	Ilia Tsimbalar	SPAR	2.2
432	Dmitri Khlestov	SPAR	2.0
433	Yuri Nikiforov	SPAR	2.0
434	Dmitri Ananko	SPAR	0.7
435	Alexander Lipko	SPAR	0.6
436	Ramiz Mamedov	SPAR	0.6
437	Egor Titov	SPAR	0.4
438	Andrei Ivanov	SPAR	1.6
439	Daniel Prodan	STEA	2.5
440	Tiberiu Csik	STEA	0.9
442	Anton Dobos	STEA	1.0
443	Aurel Panait	STEA	1.0
444	Bogdan Bucur	STEA	0.7
445	Ionel Pirvu	STEA	0.4

Midfielders

Code	Player	Team	Fee (£m)
500	Edgar Davids	AJAX	2.7
502	Jari Litmanen	AJAX	4.5
503	Martijn Reuser	AJAX	0.7
504	Arnold Scholten	AJAX	0.9
505	Kizito 'Kiki' Musampa	AJAX	1.0
506	Ronald De Boer	AJAX	3.0
507	Mark Atkins	BLAC	0.6
508	David Batty	BLAC	2.8
509	Matthew Holmes	BLAC	1.0
520	Tim Sherwood	BLAC	2.5
522	Jason Wilcox	BLAC	1.7
523	Patrik Berger*	BORU	1.9
524	Thomas Franck	BORU	0.7
525	Steffen Freund	BORU	0.8
526	Andreas Moller	BORU	3.7
527	Knut Reinhardt	BORU	2.8
528	Stefan Reuter	BORU	2.7
529	Michael Zorc	BORU	3.2
530	Florian Albert	FERC	2.5
532	Zoltan Kecskes	FERC	2.2
533	Krisztian Lisztes	FERC	2.0
534	Zoran Kuntics	FERC	1.5
535	Zsolt Paling	FERC	1.7
536	Otto Vincze	FERC	0.8
537	Dejan Milovanovics	FERC	1.8
538	Gabor Vincze	FERC	0.6
539	Marcel Koller	GRAS	1.0
540	Massimo Lombardo	GRAS	0.8
542	Tomasz Rzasa	GRAS	1.4
543	Gurkan Sermeter	GRAS	0.6
544	Johann Vogel	GRAS	1.1
545	Murat Yakin	GRAS	1.1
546	Antonio Conte	JUVE	2.4
547	Vladimir Jugovic	JUVE	3.2
548	Didier Deschamps	JUVE	3.5
549	Angelo Di Livio	JUVE	2.0
550	Attilio Lombardo	JUVE	3.5
552	Giancarlo Marocchi	JUVE	2.8
553	Paulo Sousa	JUVE	3.6
554	Yuri Kalitvintsev	KIEV	1.8
555	Pavel Shkapenko	KIEV	1.5
556	Dmitri Mikhailenko	KIEV	1.7
557	Sergei Mizin	KIEV	0.8
558	Andrei Shevchenko	KIEV	1.7
559	Vitali Kosovski	KIEV	0.6
560	Yuri Maksimov	KIEV	1.5
562	Yevgeni Pokhlebaev	KIEV	1.3
563	Leszek Pisz	LEGI	1.0
564	Adam Fedoruk	LEGI	1.2
565	Jacek Kacprzak	LEGI	0.8
566	Gregorz Lewandowski	LEGI	1.2
567	Radoslaw Michalski	LEGI	1.1
568	Jacek Bednarz	LEGI	1.0
569	Marcin Jalocha	LEGI	1.7
570	Tomasz Wieszczycki	LEGI	1.2
572	Ryszard Staniek	LEGI	1.6
573	Bemoit Cauet	NANT	0.9
574	Jean-Michel Ferri	NANT	1.4
575	Claude Makelele	NANT	2.0
576	Bruno Carotti	NANT	1.0
577	Jocelyn Gourvennec	NANT	1.2
578	David Garcion	NANT	1.2
579	Georgios Alexopoulos	PANA	1.1
580	Alexandros Alexoudis	PANA	2.8
582	Georgios H. Georgiadis	PANA	0.7
583	Andreas Lagonikakis	PANA	0.6
584	Spiridon Maragos	PANA	2.8
585	Nikolaos Nioplias	PANA	2.9
586	Juan Jose Borelli	PANA	2.7
587	Dimitrios Markos	PANA	2.7
588	Marinos Ouzounidis	PANA	1.8
589	Jose Semedo	PORT	2.6
590	Jorge Couto	PORT	2.4
592	Carlos Secretario	PORT	1.7
593	Russel Latapy	PORT	1.9
594	Emerson	PORT	2.1
595	Peter Lipcsei	PORT	2.0
596	Al Bino	PORT	0.8
597	Rui Barros	PORT	4.5
598	Ian Durrant	RANG	2.5
599	Stuart McCall	RANG	2.5
600	Neil Murray	RANG	0.8
602	Trevor Steven	RANG	2.7
603	Ian Ferguson	RANG	2.6
604	Alexei Mikhailichenko	RANG	1.3
605	Paul Gascoigne	RANG	8.0
606	Fernando Hierro	RANG	3.0
607	Michel	REAL	2.8
608	Luis Milla	REAL	2.0
609	Fernando Redondo	REAL	4.2
620	Michael Laudrup	REAL	6.5
622	Luis Enrique	REAL	3.5
623	Luis Martinez	REAL	1.7
624	Sandro	REAL	0.8
625	Fredy Rincon	REAL	3.5
626	Roar Strand	ROSE	1.0
627	Tom Kare Staurvik	ROSE	0.6
628	Karl-Petter Loken	ROSE	1.0
629	Bent Skammelsrud	ROSE	0.7
630	Jahn Ivar Jakobsen	ROSE	2.0
632	Andrei Konovalov	SPAR	1.0
633	Dmitri Alenichev	SPAR	1.0
634	Vasili Kulkov	SPAR	3.0
635	Valeri Kechinov	SPAR	0.7
636	Andrei Piatnitski	SPAR	3.0
637	Constantin Gilca	STEA	2.0
638	Roland Nagy	STEA	0.8
639	Damian Militaru	STEA	2.1
640	Iulian Filipescu	STEA	0.6
642	Laurentiu Rosu	STEA	0.7

Forwards

Code	Player	Team	Fee (£m)
700	Nwankwo Kanu	AJAX	5.0
702	Finidi George	AJAX	4.2
703	Patrick Kluivert	AJAX	7.0
704	Marc Overmars	AJAX	6.2
705	Nordin Wooter	AJAX	0.5
706	Dennis Schulp	AJAX	0.5
707	Kevin Gallacher	BLAC	1.8
708	Stuart Ripley	BLAC	2.0
709	Alan Shearer	BLAC	8.0
720	Chris Sutton	BLAC	4.7
722	Mike Newell	BLAC	2.0
723	Stephane Chapuisat	BORU	4.5
724	Karlheinz Riedle	BORU	6.2
725	Ruben Sosa	BORU	5.5
726	Heiko Herrlich	BORU	6.8
727	Goran Kopunovics	FERC	0.7
728	Zsolt Nagy	FERC	1.5
729	Gabor Zavadszky	FERC	0.7
730	Patrick De Napoli	GRAS	1.0
732	Joel Magnin	GRAS	0.8
733	Nestor Subiat	GRAS	2.5
734	Alexandre Comisetti	GRAS	0.6
735	Ibrahim Ali	GRAS	1.9
736	Udi Duke	GRAS	1.0
737	Eric Viscaal	GRAS	1.8
738	Alessandro Del Piero	JUVE	6.0
739	Fabrizio Ravanelli	JUVE	7.5
740	Gianluca Vialli	JUVE	10.0
742	Michele Padovano	JUVE	2.0
743	Viktor Leonenko	KIEV	4.0
744	Sergei Skachenko	KIEV	2.2
745	Sergei Rebrov	KIEV	2.0
746	Sergei Konovalov	KIEV	1.7
747	Jerzy Podbrozny	LEGI	2.0
748	Tomasz Unton	LEGI	0.9
749	Cezary Kucharski	LEGI	1.5
750	Andrzej Kubica	LEGI	2.2
752	Annor Aziz	LEGI	1.3
753	Japhet N'Doram	NANT	2.7
754	Nicolas Ouedec	NANT	3.0
755	Reynald Pedros	NANT	2.7
756	Laurent Peyrelade	NANT	1.1
757	Roman Kosecki	NANT	2.9
758	Anthony Martins	NANT	0.9
759	Franck Renou	NANT	0.7
760	Georgios Donis	PANA	1.5
762	Krzystof Warzycha	PANA	3.2
763	Domingos	PORT	3.7
764	Ljubinko Drulovic	PORT	1.6
765	Antonio Folha	PORT	2.0
766	Edmilson	PORT	2.5
767	Grzegorz Mielcarski	PORT	2.2
768	Ally McCoist	RANG	4.0
769	Charlie Miller	RANG	1.0
770	Oleg Salenko	RANG	2.2
772	Mark Hateley	RANG	5.0
773	Gordon Durie	RANG	2.5
774	Brian Laudrup	RANG	8.5
775	Ivan Zamorano	REAL	7.5
776	Jose Amaviscav	REAL	5.8
777	Raul Gonzalez	REAL	0.8
778	Juan Esnaiderv	REAL	4.5
779	Harald Brattbakk	ROSE	0.8
780	Vegard Heggem	ROSE	1.2
782	Steffen Iversen	ROSE	0.9
783	Trond Soltvedt	ROSE	1.5
784	Sergei Rodionov	SPAR	2.2
785	Mukhsin Mukhamadiev	SPAR	1.7
786	Andrei Tikhonov	SPAR	1.9
787	Sergei Yuran	SPAR	3.5
788	Valeri Velichko	SPAR	0.7
789	Sergei Nagornyak	SPAR	1.2
790	Valeri Schmarov	SPAR	2.0
792	Marius Lacatus	STEA	4.7
793	Vioel Oin	STEA	2.0
794	Adrian Ilie	STEA	2.0
795	Catalin Popa	STEA	1.5
796	Ion Vladoiu	STEA	2.8

Slumb

Posters

After a worrying silverware drought, Penarol have clawed their way back to the top. Eric Weil looks at Uruguay's leading club

'You will be eternal like time and you will bloom at the coming of each Spring' is Club Atletico Penarol's motto.

Penarol, Uruguay's oldest club playing professional soccer, were founded in 1891, mostly by workers on the British-owned railways, and are still going strong as Uruguay's foremost sports institution. But there has not been much blooming of late.

The club have won most Uruguayan First Division titles (31) since the start of pro soccer in 1932, but had their longest-ever spell without a title – six years – from 1987 to 1992. They also are the club to have qualified for most Libertadores Cups (together with Paraguay's Olimpia) – 27 out of 36.

They won the first Libertadores trophy, in 1960, retained it the following year, and now have a total five victories (second only to Argentina's Independiente). But their last win was in 1986 and they have not been anywhere near the final of the South American Club Championship since.

Penarol also used to win tournaments in other parts of the world, and were considered one of its leading clubs in the 1960s, even when Santos ruled the roost. But the club suffered from the general decline – financial and other – of Uruguayan soccer, perhaps more so than other smaller clubs because they, like eternal rival Nacional, were used to buying expensive foreign players.

For a club like Penarol lack of success is a disaster, but a series of coaches failed to reverse the trend, despite more stability on the board. Jose Pedro Damiani, an accountant, has been president for well over a decade. Under him, Penarol are no longer living beyond their means as so many clubs tend to do.

In 1993 Penarol finally stopped the six-year slump to win the title again. Last year they retained it, winning both sections of the reorganised First Division and the end-of-season 'Liquilla', which qualifies teams for the Libertadores Cup.

Officially, Defensor Sporting had won the first round because points were deducted from Penarol's total (due to crowd trouble at one of their games), but the latter won the play-off.

Both the 1993 and 1994 titles were won under Uruguayan coach Gregorio Perez, with veteran international midfielder Pablo Bengoechea being the outstanding playmaker. Bengoechea also was joint League top scorer in 1993.

Yet in 1993 Penarol failed to get a Libertadores Cup place in spite of being champions, because they failed to take the top two places in the 'Liquilla'. This year they reached the Libertadores second round – not difficult because three of four first-round group teams go through – where they were beaten 3-1 both home and away by Colombia's Nacional.

Europe-bound Marcelo Otero has left for Vicenza, but Bengoechea (left) and De Los Santos (far left) are still around

Penarol's strongest department is in midfield where they line up several internationals, but a good 70 per cent of their goals come from dead-ball situations, thanks to Bengoechea and Carlos Aquilera.

Penarol tend to press in midfield and attack and in this Diego Dorta and converted defender Enrique De los Santos stand out. But the team are not so good in defence.

Currently Penarol have won the First Division opening championship but again have a long way to go to make their presence felt on the international field.

Although they were the only club up to date with payments to players – which held up the start of this season's championship – they do not have the money to strengthen their team. They were recently forced to sell Uruguay's best striker, Dario Silva, an international with an excellent eye for goal, who was League top scorer last season. He went to Cagliari in Italy, while Marcelo Otero, the forward who made such a big impression in the recent Copa America, joined newly-promoted Serie A side Vicenza.

Leading players

Goalkeepers

Oscar FERRO (2.3.67)
Experienced, but erratic. Member of the national team squad and considered to be the best keeper in Uruguay. Still criticised, though.

Defenders

Washington TAIS (21.12.72)
Right flank defender good at moving forward, but not at man-to-man marking.

Nelson GUTIERREZ (13.4.62)
Experienced veteran international, strong in the air, but also poor at marking.

Oscar AQUIRREGARAY (25.10.59)
Another experienced veteran international, better at marking, but slow.

Midfielders

Diego DORTA (31.12.71)
Central midfielder, good at organising, passing, shooting and tackling. One of the best players in the team.

Nelson OLIVERA (19.6.74)
A rough and not very tidy player who tries to get rid of ball quickly.

Enrique DE LOS SANTOS (16.10.58)
A converted defender still better in defence. Good in the air because of his height, but slow and cumbersome.

Pablo BENGOECHEA (27.6.65)
Experienced international who organises a lot of the play. Also good with free-kicks and penalties. Scored the Uruguay's equaliser from a free-kick against Brazil in the 1995 Copa America final.

Antonio PACHECO (11.4.75)
Junior international showing great promise. Good understanding with Bengoechea, but slightly built.

Forwards

Martin RODRIGUEZ (31.7.70)
Right-winger who rotates all over front line, but lacks tactical sense and agility.

Dario SILVA (2.11.72)
Top scorer in last season's championship. Recently sold to Italy's Cagliari.

Marcelo OTERO (14.4.71)
Opportunist striker best in the middle. Impressive at Copa America. Recently went on loan to Vicenza in Italy.

Andres MARTINEZ (16.10.72)
Fetches and carries ball, links well with Bengoechea in starting attacks.

CLUB ATLETICO PENAROL
Founded September 28, 1891
Colours Yellow and black striped shirts, black shorts and black socks, both with yellow hoops at the fringe.
Address Magallanes, Corner Galicia, Montevideo.
Stadium Centenario (75,000).
Honours League (since 1932 start of professional soccer): 1932, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1944, 1945, 1949, 1951, 1953, 1954, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1968, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1985, 1986, 1993, 1994. (31 times); South American Club Championship (Libertadores Cup) 1960, 1961, 1966, 1982, 1987 (5 times); Intercontinental Cup (World Club Cup) 1961, 1966, 1982 (3 times).

Argentina

River Plate buy big

AS THE 1995-96 season began in Argentina with the national opening championship, popular River Plate and Boca Juniors looked to be making the running – which augurs well for gate receipts.

River Plate even won a match with their entire reserve team while resting first-team players for the Libertadores Cup semi-final, but there are questions.

Their defence continues to leak, especially after the departure of international defender Roberto Ayala to Italy – international striker Ariel Ortega did not follow as previously believed – and in former striker Ramon Diaz they have their most expensive coach ever.

But Diaz, who finished his playing career in Japan last season, had only a little coaching experience in that country before returning to River Plate. They were reported to have paid him a signing-on fee of £225,000, plus £14,000 a month and double the win bonuses received by the players.

Meanwhile, Boca Juniors are said to be paying Diego Maradona more than £5million for a 30-month contract (including signing-on fee, salaries and extras for friendlies) plus win bonuses while Claudio Caniggia will get £650,000 plus win bonuses during a one-year loan from Roma.

Maradona cannot start playing until September 30 when his drug-related FIFA ban ends. This money is being paid by a local television mogul who will get it back from TV rights and friendly matches he is arranging.

The question being asked is: Will Diego last until the end of 1997?

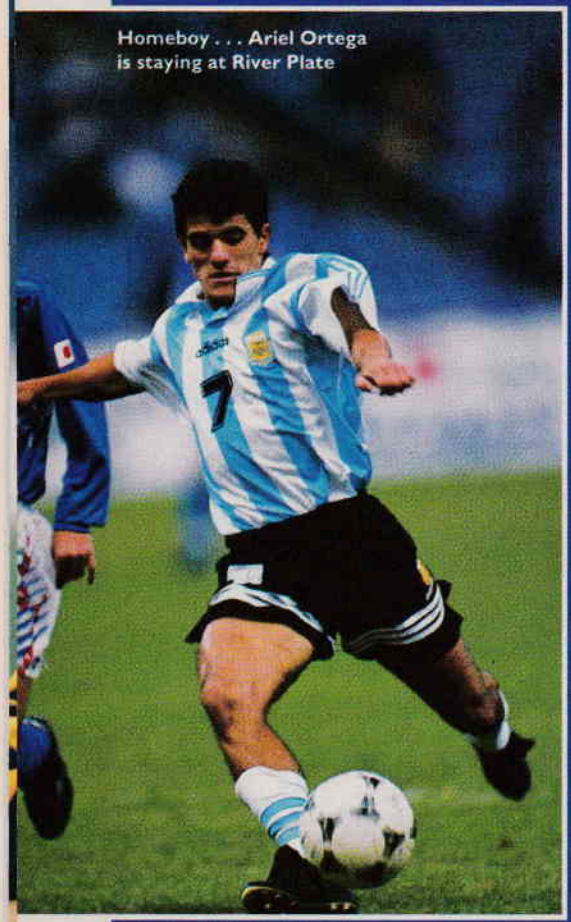
An early injury to goalkeeper Oscar Passet – who had such a lot to do with San Lorenzo's victory in last season's closing championship title – could keep him out for the rest of the season. His club lost no time in signing Uruguayan international Fernando Alvez from Penarol as a replacement.

Deportivo Mandiyu, where Maradona took his first unsuccessful steps as a coach last year, were relegated at he end of last season. They have now lost their affiliation, as a result of enormous and unpayable debts.

Luis Islas, the controversial international goalkeeper and team captain at Independiente, who left following disagreements with the coach and board, has signed for Newell's Old Boys.

Lowly Ferro Carril Oeste signed Doctor Khumalo, the first South African to play in the Argentinian League. Khumalo, who had impressed for his country in their 1-1 draw against Argentina last year, scored on his debut for his new club.

ERIC WEIL



Homeboy . . . Ariel Ortega is staying at River Plate

Brazil

Corinthian spirit wins through

CORINTHIANS won the Sao Paulo championship for the first time in seven years when they beat Palmeiras in a dramatic two-leg final.

A goal two minutes from the end of extra time in the second leg by substitute striker Elivelton wrapped up the title for Corinthians, giving them a 3-2 aggregate win after the first leg had ended 1-1.

Elivelton, who played for Brazil regularly in 1992 and 1993 but is now in the reserves at Corinthians, celebrated the goal by tearing off his shirt and throwing it into the crowd. Like many Brazilian players nowadays, he was wearing two shirts for that very purpose.

The goal could help resurrect Elivelton's career, which began sliding after he was hit on the head by a stone thrown from the crowd during an Olympia qualifying match in Asuncion in 1994.

Palmeiras, Sao Paulo champions for the previous two years, had taken a second-half lead through Nilson – who had equalised three minutes into injury time in the first leg – but Corinthians hit back five minutes later from a free-kick curled in by Marcelinho Carioca.

The first game was an unsavoury affair, with more than 60 fouls and two sendings-off in the first half alone. Corinthians players stayed in their dressing room for an extra 10 minutes at half-time in protest at the refereeing of Oscar Roberto de Godoi, whose name had been picked out of a hat one hour before the game. The Sao Paulo federation had decided to choose from five referees and held a draw to choose the match official.

After the game, three Corinthians players became involved in a punch-up with Palmeiras supporters who insulted them as they boarded the team coach. Police joined in and midfielder Ze Elias had to have an arm put in plaster after being whacked by a truncheon. During the game, the same Ze Elias had been featured in a television close-up kicking an opponent's knee.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

Back at the top . . . former international Elivelton scored the winning goal in the Sao Paulo championship final

Libertadores Cup Final

Glory for Gremio

THOUSANDS of delirious fans lined the streets of Porto Alegre to welcome back newly-crowned Libertadores Cup champions Gremio.

The Brazilian team, who drew 1-1 with Atletico Nacional of Colombia in the second leg to win the two-leg final 4-2 on aggregate, paraded the trophy through the southern Brazilian city on a fire engine.

The Brazilians were convincing first-leg winners on home soil, defeating Atletico Naional 3-1 thanks to goals from Marulanda (own goal), Jardel and Paulo Nunes. The Colombians, champions themselves in 1989, pulled one back through Angel.

Gremio took their two-goal lead to a packed Atanasio Girardot stadium in Medellin for the return leg.

Nacional got off to a promising start when striker Victor Hugo Aristizabal put them ahead on 10 minutes. Aristizabal went deperately close 10 minutes later with an almost identical effort.

But the Colombians couldn't break down Gremio's tenacious defence, and the Brazilians all but secured the title when midfielder Dinio converted a penalty in the 85tThish minute. The Brazilians, who have gained a reputution in recent months for their rough tactics, had Goiano sent off a minute later.

This was Gremio's second Libertadores Cup victory, following their 1983 win over Penarol of Uruguay. They now face Ajax Amsterdam in Tokyo in the World Club Cup Final.

They join an elite group of Brazilian sides who have won the South American club championship twice. Santos were winners in 1962 and 1963, while Sao Paulo won the title in 1992 and 1993.

To reach the final, Gremio knocked out modest Emelec and El Nacional of Ecuador, Olimpia of Paraguay and Brazilian champions Palmeiras.

The toughest game came in the quarter-final against Palmeiras. After a 5-0 victory at home in Porto Alegre, Gremio lost 5-1 in the return match, but still advanced to the semi-final, where they faced Emelec.

Jardel was the tournament's top scorer with 13 goals, most of them headers.

● *Full report next month.*

MEN IN THE NEWS

Daniel takes the blame

DANIEL CERRINI . . . Diego Maradona's dietician during last year's World Cup, accepted responsibility for getting the player banned by FIFA for drug abuse in an interview with an Argentinian news agency, but said it was a human error. He confirmed the well-known story of getting a medicinal product in the US to replace one brought from Buenos Aires which had been used up, and mistaking the label, because his knowledge of English was not good. Cerrini said that Maradona, who had never accused him, was still his friend and that he would work with him again – free of charge as before – if called upon.

PELE . . . won his court case against the Brazilian FA and publishers Abril for using his name and photos in an album published in 1988 without his permission. Damages are to be awarded later: Pele had sued for three million dollars.

RAIMUNDO TUPPER . . . the popular Universidad Catolica (of Chile) midfielder, committed suicide by jumping out of a ninth-floor window of a hotel in Costa Rica where his team was on tour.Tupper, in contrast to most players, came from a well-to-do family and seemed to have no cares in the world, so that the news of his death, at the age of 26, came as a big surprise to many Chileans.

TAFFAREL . . . the Brazilian international goalkeeper ***(right)***, needed 10 stitches on a head wound after being hit by a bottle thrown by a fan during a training session with Atletico Mineiro. They were preparing for the start of the Brazilian national championship.

FELIPE COMPINEZ . . . a Peruvian referee, was stoned to death after awarding a last-minute penalty to allow Social Santa to score the winner and gain the title of a minor district competition in Peru.

ERIC WEIL

next month

FREE BOOKLET
EUROPEAN FIRST DIVISION SQUADS 1995-96

New New New

EIGHT MONTHS AND COUNTING!
We start the countdown to the Euro '96 finals

SHIRT SPONSORSHIP
Who's paying what, where and why

WORLD SERVICE
The new-look WORLD SOCCER results section

PLUS . . . Brian Glanville, Keir Radnedge . . .

NOVEMBER ISSUE ON SALE OCTOBER 13

African triumph

Paul Gardner reports from Ecuador on the Under-17 World Championship for the FIFA/JVC Cup

AFRICA AGAIN! Ghana, repeating their triumph in the 1991 edition, deservedly took the Under-17 World Cup in Ecuador. Add Nigeria's wins in 1985 and 1993 (when Ghana were their final opponents), and you have four out of the six tournaments won by the two West African nations.

Suspcions about the ages of some players cannot disguise an African triumph and a European disaster. Germany and Spain were knocked out in the first round, and Portugal qualified for the quarter-final only in the most extraordinary last-second, skin-of-the-teeth manner.

The Portuguese, having lost their first two games to Argentina and Guinea, and with the score at 0-0 late on in the match with Costa Rica, were on their way out of the competition. But three goals in the final five minutes took them (with one win, two defeats and a minus-one goal difference!) into a quarter-final berth.

The German failure was shocking. The team not only lacked quality players, but failed to show any of the traditional German fighting spirit. They were taken apart 3-0 by Brazil, recovered somewhat for a 3-0 win over feeble Canada, but then caved in pitifully, 3-0 again, to Oman.

Canada's loss to Germany continued a terrible record. The Canadians have played in four Under-17 World Cups, a total of 12 games. They have lost all 12, finished last in all four tournaments, conceded 42 goals and scored only three. These figures heighten the embarrassment of CONCACAF.

In this World Cup, CONCACAF countries sank like lead and occupied three of the last four positions: Costa Rica 13th, the USA 15th, and Canada 16th.

The USA's failure – like Canada, they lost all three games – was surprising, because they had reached the quarter-final stage in the last two tournaments. A tough group – Ghana, Japan and hosts Ecuador – did not help, but coach Glenn Myernick believes the problem lies more in the players' background of American youth-club soccer. "We'll never be in contention for a medal," he says, "until, when you see a roster of our players, their names are affiliated with a pro club."

Things were a lot brighter for South America. Ecuador, Brazil and Argentina all qualified for the second round. Jose Pekerman had guided the Argentinian Under-20 squad to the World title in April, and with three wins and a 7-0 goal record, his youngsters were looking like serious title contenders.

After sweeping Ecuador aside, they had to face their old rival, Brazil, in the semi-final. For 45 minutes, this was Argentina's game. The traditional short-passing and dribbling skills were in full flow, in a thrilling display put on by Sixto Peralta, Pablo Aimar, and above all Cesar La Paglia, a commanding presence in midfield. The Brazilians, incredibly, were reduced to belting long passes downfield.

But 10 minutes into the second half La Paglia was ejected (after receiving two yellow cards within eight minutes). Argentina wilted, Brazilian midfielders Kleber and Rodrigues Fabio took over, and three late goals took Brazil comfortably through to the final.

Their opponents, predictably, were Ghana, who had outclassed Portugal 2-0 in the quarter-final, and were themselves set for a semi-final with Nigeria. That did not happen, because Oman pulled off the upset of the tournament and beat them 2-1.

Nigeria had more than enough chances to win, yet seemed fated to miss them all bar one. Oman, defensively strong, made the most of few chances. But the Omanis were no match for Ghana, who waltzed to a 3-1 semi-final win. "The worst game my team has ever played," said Oman's English coach, George Smith. "We didn't mark, we lost our shape, we forgot everything."

But there was no denying Ghana's brilliance. Their fast-paced soccer flowed unstoppably. Even in Quito, 2,800 metres up in the Andes, the players had seemed tireless. If the pace and the rhythm were impressive, the ball control, the accurate passing and the powerful shooting were no less so.

Patrick Allotey, with breath-taking runs down the left, Emmanuel Bentil and Abu Iddrisu with darting runs and baffling moves up front, stood out – but not by much! – from this multi-talented team.

The final was played in Guayaquil's 90,000-capacity Estadio Monumental, way too big for this tournament and merely underlining the problem of getting fans to pay to watch youth soccer. The announced crowd was 25,000, but to get that number, the organisers decided to let all students in free.

The fans saw another remarkable display by Ghana. Don't be fooled by the 3-2 winning margin. Brazil were out of their depth right from the kick-off – this game could quite easily have ended 5-0.

Attacking relentlessly, now with Allotey on the left, now with Joseph Ansah on the right, now with Bentil and Iddrisu carving through the middle, Ghana simply overpowered Brazil.

Sule and Iddrisu had made it 2-0 by half-time. Juan got one back right after the interval, but within two minutes Bentil made it 3-1.

Right on time, with the Ghanaians already celebrating, Marco Antonio made it 3-2, but by then the Brazilians were a very tired team. Ghana looked as fresh as when they started; and they had not made any substitutions!

The supremacy of Ghana's football was acknowledged and admired by everyone. Their players were prize catches; Iddrisu is going to Cologne, Bentil and Christian Saba to Bayern Munich, Awudu Issaka to Egypt.

But the extraordinarily high level of Ghana's play also was the focus of much suspicion among coaches. Doubts about the age of the Ghanaian players were widespread.

Mostly the suspicions were merely hinted at.

Ecuador's coach, Eduardo Rivero, called Ghana's strength and stamina "unusual at this age level". Brazil's Antonio Fernandes Barroso advised journalists to remember the names of the Brazilian, Argentine, and Ghanaian players – "and see which have made it with top clubs in five years."

One who did speak openly, Portugal's Rui Cacador, said: "The players of Ghana cannot be the age they say they are. No team of 16-year-olds can play constantly on the offensive, as this team does, or possess this level of ball control.

"FIFA must act. Fair play means respecting the regulations, not only on the field, but off it as well."

Staying close . . . Brazil's Djimi sticks close to Ghana's Allotey

Pulling away . . . Ghana's Amoaka evades Brazil's Carlos Alberto

Golden moment . . . Ghana's Bentil receives the trophy from Joao Havelange

Time to call a halt

TEAMS were allowed to call two 90-second time-outs, one in each half, when in possession at a throw-in or a goal kick, or after a goal had been scored.

This sounds like a cunning idea from the marketing people to get more time for television commercials. "Not at all," says Steve Dixon of FIFA's marketing arm, ISL. "The idea didn't come from us. We were surprised by it."

FIFA vice-president David Will said, "the coaches made the suggestion, claiming it will improve the game."

But, clearly, not all the coaches in this tournament were happy. Dave Mackay, ex-Scotland and Tottenham, now the coach of Qatar, said: "I'm all against it." Samuel Arday of champions Ghana urged that "The time-out should be abolished."

Glenn Myernick of the USA said: "I don't like the time-outs and I don't want them added to the game. But as they're part of the rules of the tournament, I'll use them." Ecuador's Eduardo Rivero had similar feelings: "I'm neither for nor against, but as it's there, I'll use it if necessary."

For Portugal's Rui Cacador the time-outs were "very important at Under-17 level, they should be compulsory. We need to speak to the boys. We are teachers, not just coaches."

Jose Pekerman of Argentina and Antonio Fernandes Barroso of Brazil hedged their bets – both thought the time-out was good for the coaches, but doubted whether the fans liked it.

The fans in Quito did not. When Japan called the first time-out, it was greeted with prolonged and loud whistling.

Japans were the only team to use all their time-outs: six in three games. Ghana, the winners, did not use any. Overall, the time-out was decidedly under-used. In 32 games, 128 were possible; only 44 (34%) were called.

On the matter of improving the game, there was no noticeable effect, but on several occasions a coach called a time-out simply to interrupt the rhythm of opponents who were dominating.

Exactly what Mackay feared: "The idea is simply used for time-wasting or to stop a team that's putting you under pressure."

Odd that FIFA – having banned back-passes to the goalkeeper and insisted that injured players be taken off rapidly – should now experiment with a legal means of time-wasting.

While some coaches did favour the time-out, they stressed that their approval was only for the boys' game, not for adults. Their opinions underline, once again, the dubious value of an Under-17 tournament for trying out rule changes.

My favourite time-out was called by Japan, 12 minutes into the second half against the USA. Japan were leading 1-0 at the time. Within two minutes of the restart, USA coach Myernick pointed out: "When they call a time-out, we get to talk to our players, too."

RESULTS

First two teams from each group advanced to quarter-finals

GROUP A (Quito)

Ghana	1	Japan	0
Ecuador	2	USA	0
Japan	2	USA	1
Ghana	2	Ecuador	1
Ghana	2	USA	0
Ecuador	0	Japan	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GHANA	3	3	0	0	5	1	9
ECUADOR	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Japan	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
USA	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

GROUP B (Cuenca)

Argentina	3	Portugal	0
Costa Rica	2	Guinea	0
Argentina	2	Costa Rica	0
Guinea	3	Portugal	2
Argentina	2	Guinea	0
Portugal	3	Costa Rica	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ARGENTINA	3	3	0	0	7	0	9
PORTUGAL	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
Guinea	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Costa Rica	3	1	0	2	2	5	3

GROUP C (Riobamba)

Nigeria	1	Qatar	1
Australia	2	Spain	2
Nigeria	2	Australia	0
Spain	1	Qatar	0
Nigeria	2	Spain	1
Australia	3	Qatar	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NIGERIA	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
AUSTRALIA	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Spain	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Qatar	3	0	1	2	1	5	1

GROUP D (Ibarra)

Brazil	3	Germany	0
Oman	2	Canada	1
Germany	3	Canada	0
Brazil	0	Oman	0
Oman	3	Germany	0
Brazil	2	Canada	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BRAZIL	3	2	1	0	5	0	7
OMAN	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Germany	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Canada	3	0	0	3	1	7	0

QUARTER-FINALS

Ghana	2	Portugal	0
Oman	2	Nigeria	1
Brazil	3	Australia	1
Argentina	3	Ecuador	1

SEMI-FINAL
Portoviejo – August 17
GHANA 3 (Ansah 39, Kathiri 68, Dini 54)
OMAN 1 (Iddrisu og 71)
Ref: Jose Luis Da Rosa (Uruguay)
Att: 18,000

SEMI-FINAL
Guayaquil – August 17
BRAZIL 3 (Rodrigo 71, Rocha 84, Fabio 88)
ARGENTINA 0
Ref: Fritz Stuchlik (Austria)
Att: 3,000

THIRD-PLACE PLAY-OFF
Guayaquil – August 20
ARGENTINA 2 (Gatti 20, Cambiasso 72)
OMAN 0
Ref: Said Belqola (Morocco)
Att: 12,000

FINAL
Guayaquil – August 20
GHANA 3 (Sule 38, Iddrisu 43, Bentil 49)
BRAZIL 2 (Juan 47, Marco Antonio 91)

Ghana: Abu; Ansah, Amaniampong, Gyan, Aliotey; Dini, Iddrisu, Sule, Amoako; Bentil, Issaka.
Brazil: Julio Cesar; Djimi (Eduardo 83), Juan, Gaia, Helder (Fabio 73); Rocha, Carlos Alberto (Marica 46), Kleber, Rodrigues Fabio; Marco Antonio, Rodrigo.
Ref: Leslie Irvine (Northern Ireland)
Att: 25,000.

The Westerhof way

Westerhof's way is the right way. Who says so? Clemens Westerhof says so. Sammy Adelman spoke to the former Nigeria boss, now working as a coach in South Africa

A YEAR after his Nigerian team flopped in the last 16 of the World Cup, Clemens Westerhof sits in a Cape Town hotel, takes another drag on a cigarette, and reflects on the five years that embraced the best of times and the worst of times.

"My heart is still with Nigeria – five years there cost me 10 years of my life," he says.

Everything fell apart between the win over Greece and the match against Italy. The external interference to which he repeatedly was subjected by members of the Nigerian footballing hierarchy resurfaced and undermined the side's cohesion and discipline.

"What we did in the World Cup was amazing until the last five minutes against Italy," says Westerhof. They allowed Roberto Baggio to equalise and then to score the penalty that won the match. "We stood on the touchline screaming at them to put the ball into the stands. Okocha waves at us to calm down, saying that they had the match in their pockets. Four minutes to go and he stands at the corner flag messing around on the ball.

"I'd never seen anything like it in my life. I said 'Oh my dear God, this is not good'. Other players did things they hadn't done throughout the whole tournament and then I saw it. I saw Cameroon-England in 1990. The Italians were crying on the bench, but you can never show your opponents that you are the master of doing tricks on the ball – that only happens with the final whistle."

In three consecutive tournaments Westerhof took Nigeria to the top three places in the African Nations Cup, winning the competition in Tunisia in 1994. When the team returned to Lagos "mothers who didn't even know that the ball is round were dancing in the streets. It was beautiful". He also helped the Under 17s become World Champions in Japan and is proud to have been one of the last 16 coaches in the World Cup.

Westerhof had offers from Monaco and Rapid Vienna before deciding to take his current post with Mamelodi Sundowns. He promised his son that he would not stray far from his native Holland after leaving Nigeria but had to tell him, "My friend, I'm going to South Africa."

"You're not my friend, if you tell me that," came the reply, but with free air tickets written into his contract, the 12-year-old has twice been to visit his father in a country in which he might consider settling.

Westerhof says that the way to succeed in Africa is to understand that black people don't respond to shouting. "Instead you must win their confidence in other ways, by getting them to understand that I'm for you." Success depends on discipline, the creation of a family spirit and a good coach. But African football is still immature in many ways.

"Tactically they want to learn, they want to listen, but they're still prone to making mistakes."

By moving his cigarettes and lighter, Westerhof demonstrates how in Europe "players pass and move, in Africa they pass and stand". He sardonically remembers how "when I was first in Nigeria they did things I'd never seen before, like playing one-twos in their own penalty area. They are so confident, but it nearly gave me a heart attack and I asked them to stop unless they wanted to see me in hospital.

"If you want entertaining football go to Africa, but not if you want to win. If you want to play this kind of entertaining football, you should go to a circus."

Forward thinking . . . Westerhof is currently coach of Mamelodi Sundowns, but is keen on a return to the international scene

As for South Africa, "it's a nice country, with good facilities and talent, but it doesn't have the coaches".

He believes African footballers are too easily satisfied. When he introduced three training sessions a day at Sundowns he was accused of overtraining the players, "but now they're starting to play the kind of football I want. Total football, circulation football".

Unsurprisingly, Ajax are the model at club level, Brazil in the international arena. He is proud of his association with coaches such as Beenhakker, Boskov and Michels, and his aim is to combine European organisation with the Samba rhythms of the world champions.

Sundowns are challenging for the title in an improving National Soccer League, but one senses Westerhof's desire to return to international football. He would love to be offered the national coaching job in South Africa, and may yet consider one more World Cup in charge of one of the Gulf states.

He is confident that South Africa can be in France in 1998. "There is a long way to go, but if they do it right they can be there."

And what is the right way? In a flash comes the reply: "Take Westerhof."

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

RACING BAFOUSSAM and Prevoyance Yaounde are tied at the top of the table after 20 rounds of the championship. They have 32 points, one more than Unisport Bafang in third place. Panthere Bangante are fourth with 29 points. The beleaguered national federation has again decided to form a special selection committee for the national team, despite Cameroon's last-gasp qualification for the African Nations Cup finals next year. Included on the committee is former African Footballer of the Year, Theophile Abega.

GABON

FIFA has suspended the Gabonese federation for non-payment of outstanding arrears of around £4,500. The Gabonese Federation has been involved in a long-standing tug-of-war with their government, which has led to the stoppage of their First Division fixtures this season. The national team has also been hit by a personality clash between coach Alain Da Costa and former captain Pierre Aubame and striker Jean-Daniel Ndong Nze. Both players, who are based in France, are refusing to play for the Azingo Nation, who have qualified for the Nations Cup finals.

ZAIRE

TURKISH COACH Mushin Ertgal has lost his job with the national team despite helping them to secure qualification for the Nations Cup finals. The German-based coach had taken over from Mutambila Santos, who was suspended for six months when Zaire were kicked out of the All-Africa Games qualifiers for using over-aged players. But Ertgal was not given a contract by the Zairian Federation.

MARK GLEESON

EAST AFRICA

● KENYA BREWERIES retained their Hedex Super Cup title in the second annual tournament between East Africa's top club sides.

The Kenyan champions defeated Uganda's Express 1-0 in the final with the only goal coming from Musa Otieno in the 29th minute. Breweries' defence held firm despite second-half pressure from the Ugandans in front of a partisan crowd in Kampala's Nakivubo Stadium.

Earlier matches had seen Express beat Tanzania's Malindi 2-0 with James Kirinya getting on the mark twice within three minutes. Breweries drew 1-1 before a goalless first encounter with Express.

PHIL MINSHULL

REUNION

STADE TAMPONNAISE have a slender one-point lead at the top of the table after 10 rounds of the championship. They lead with 25 points to Saint Louisienne's 24. Saint Denis are a point further back in third place.

MAURITIUS

FIRE BRIGADE won the MFA Cup with a 2-1 win over Cadets Club in the final. This season's champions were Sunrise Flacq United, formerly known as Sunrise SC.

UGANDA

DEFENDING champions Express lead by a point from UEB in the championship race but have three games in hand. Nakivubo Villa lie in third place, some 13 points off the leaders. Ibrahim Kizito remains the league's top scorer with 18 goals for UEB, five more than team-mate Charles Ogwang in second place. Kampala City Council have fired coach Fred Mugisha and replaced him with Paul Ssali, a former Ugandan international goalkeeper. Plans have been announced for a new multisport stadium to replace the run-down Nakivubo stadium in the centre of the capital Kampala.

MARK GLEESON

KENYA

GOR MAHIA lead the league just after the halfway mark with 55 points from 26 games. Champions Kenya Breweries lead the chase with 49 points but have two games in hand.

Perennial challengers AFC Leopards lie third with 44 points from 23 games and recently introduced centre-forward Bramwell Mwolo. He scored his first goal on his third appearance in a 1-1 draw with Lake Warriors after spending the last three years as a rugby league professional with the English club Hunslet!

PHIL MINSHULL

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

INTERNATIONAL striker Djamel Menad, formerly a professional in France with Nimes, is to be co-coach of JS Kabylie next season, sharing duties with Harouni Harb. Mohktar Kalem has quit as coach of Algeria's Olympia team despite helping them to earn a berth at the All-Africa Games tournament in Zimbabwe. He is replaced by Mustapha Heddane, former coach of Mouloudia Alger.

EGYPT

ARAB CONTRACTORS won the 64th Egyptian Cup with a 2-0 win over Ghazi Al-Mahalla. The goals were scored by Mustafa Sadeq and Ahmed Nakhla but the tournament was largely ignored by fans after the early exit of Cairo giants Al Ahly and Zamalek. It was Arab Contractors' second-ever cup win. Ismailia have sold international striker Ahmed El Agouz to Dutch Second Division team FC Den Haag – a rare transfer to Europe for an Egyptian player.

TUNISIA

CS SFAXIEN added the cup to their League title to win the double for the first time since 1971. Sofiane Sussi scored the winner eight minutes from time in the 2-1 triumph over relegated Olympique Beja. Sulch Meftah got Sfaxien's other goal while Siad Youzbachi got Beja on the scoresheet. Dethroned league champions Esperance have appointed Brazilian Amilton Barreto as their new coach in preparation for their defence of the African Champions Cup. His predecessor Faouzi Benzerti has gone to Saudi Arabia. Also heading to the Gulf is Esperance's Zambian striker Kenneth Malitoli, who after an injury-plagued season joined Al Saad in Qatar. National team captain Mohamed Ali Mahjoubi has moved from Esperance to Club Africain, who have also signed Nabil Maaloul, Senegalese international Moussa Traore and Brazilian Augusto Stella. Former international captain Khaled Ben Yahim is to be the new coach of CO Transports. Club Africain have signed Malian international Modibo Sidibe, who scored against the Tunisians at the 1994 Nations Cup finals in Tunis.

MARK GLEESON

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS, coached by Dutch-born Clemens Westerhof, beat Kaizer Chiefs 1-0 in the final of a four-team international tournament also featuring Benfica and Leeds United. Sundowns hammered Leeds, captained by their South African striker Phil Masinga, in the semi-final 3-0 with two goals from the new signing Kenny Niemach. Chiefs won the other semi-final with a 1-0 win over Benfica, courtesy of a goal by guest player Fani Madida, who was at Turkish champions Besiktas last season. Cape Town Spurs, coached by former England Under-21 international Mich d'Avray, continue their leadership at the top of the table, followed by Sundowns. Both Chiefs and defending champions Orlando Pirates have lost their coaches. Chiefs fired Peruvian Augusto Palacios while Pirates' Mike Makaab resigned after a run of poor form.

ZIMBABWE

SWISS-BORN coach Marc Duvillard took over as caretaker coach of the Zimbabwean national team for their final Nations Cup qualifying match against Cameroon, but the team were beaten 1-0 and once again failed to qualify at the final hurdle. Duvillard, who once managed Lugano and Laussane, is the coach of First Division leaders Blackpool.

MARK GLEESON

WEST AFRICA

BURKINA FASO

CHAMPIONS ASFA Yenenga have sold two of their internationals, Brahima Traore and Seydou Traore, to French amateur club FC Bressuire, who play in the central eastern division of the Honour League. Both players were regulars in Burkina Faso's successful Nations Cup qualifying campaign. Burkina Faso recently launched a 'Diaspora' tournament, featuring Burkinabe immigrants from neighbouring Ivory Coast, Ghana and Mali, where there are large concentrations of Burkinabe families. The idea was to uncover talent for the national team ahead of January's Nations Cup finals.

IVORY COAST

CHAMPIONS ASEC Abidjan suffered a shock 2-1 home defeat by Issia Wazi on the opening day of the new season. Perennial rivals Africa Sports won their first game with a 3-0 triumph over SO Armce. Former national team captain Serge-Alain Maguy, once on the books of Atletico Madrid in Spain, walked out on ASEC, soon after coming back from a long injury lay-off. Ivory Coast won the inaugural George Weah youth tournament in Abidjan, also involving Ghana, Liberia and Mali. The Ivorians beat Ghana 2-0 in the final. Stade Abidjan's 18-year-old goalscoring sensation Ibrahim Bakayoko has joined French First Division outfit Montpellier.

GHANA

MYSTERIOUS DWARFS, kicked out of the Ghana FA Cup for fielding a suspended player in the competition, suffered further indignity with defeat in the West African Football Union Cup. Despite forcing a more than creditable away draw with favourites Africa Sport in Abidjan, they lost the return leg at home with an own goal from Justice Aban.

MALI

STADE MALIEN beat Djoliba 1-0 in the top of the table clash to retain the leading spot in the championship race. The goal from international defender Yatama Dio put the team one point ahead of AS Munde and two ahead of Real Bamako. Djoliba have slipped back to fourth spot, three points off the pace. AS Munde suffered a shock defeat in the cup, beaten 1-0 by struggling First Division club Sigui and therefore missing out on a quarter-final place.

NIGER

ASFAN, the army club, are back in continental football after a break of some 23 years after beating Liberte FC 3-2 in the cup final. The army team beat Zumunta on away goals in their two legged semi-final after a 3-3 tie, while Liberte sneaked past Sahel SC 4-3.

SENEGAL

DIARAF DAKAR head the standings in pool A and have qualified for the four-team final championship play-off, with ESO in second place. The two teams going through from pool B are ASC Ndiambour, who finished top, and second-placed Linguerc.

MARK GLEESON

GAMBIA

WALLADIAN won the First Division with their Gambian international Tamsir Manneh the League's top scorer with 10 goals.

PHIL MINSHULL

INDONESIA

Persib in first place

AMATEURS Persib Bandung won the 1994/95 Indonesian League title by defeating Petrokimia Putra 1-0 in the final before a 110,000 crowd – nearly 90 per cent of them Persib fans – at Senayan Stadium in Jakarta.

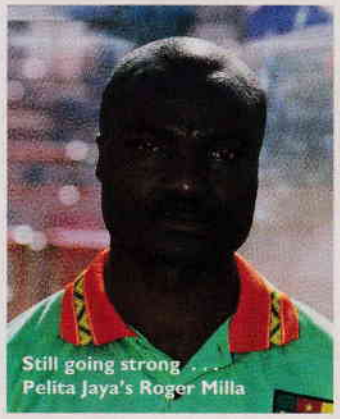
At least one man died when rioting and a fire broke out after the match.

The championship was the first played between semi-pro and amateur clubs. The most popular figure was Cameroon's Roger Milla of Pelita Jaya, but his club were eliminated in the quarter-finals.

Persib will face Bangkok Bank of Thailand in the Asian Champions Cup, while Petrokimia play in the Cup-winners Cup against another Thai club, Rajpracha.

Peri Sandria of Bandung Raya was the top scorer with 34 goals, while a group of journalists chose club mate Widodo C. Putra as the best player.

JOHNNY TAMAELA



Still going strong . . . Pelita Jaya's Roger Milla

PHILIPPINES

AT the end of the 10th round of the 10-team semi-pro league, Lipa City still led with 25 points. Makati (24) and Quezon City (22) were second and third respectively.

QATAR

BOSSE NILSSON, Sweden's assistant national coach from 1980-85, has taken charge of Qatari club Al Taawon on a one-year contract. Nilsson, 50, quit Danish club Silkeborg early this year after a difference with the directors.

SINGAPORE

THE national team maintained their unassailable lead in the Tiger Beer League with 28 points from 10 matches. Australian club Darwin were second with 17, followed by six-time champions Geylang International with 14 points.

Hong Kong's FA Cup winners, Rangers, won the Singapore Tiger Beer Challenge Cup. Singapore, Myanmar, Shanghai Dashun of China and Rangers participated in this mid-season tournament, aimed to prepare the Singapore side for the upcoming South-East Asian Games.

SOUTH KOREA

CHAMPIONS Ilhwa Chonma finished top in the first half of the eight-team Korean Pro League with one match to spare. In a crucial away match, more consistent Ilhwa drew 1-1 with Hyundai Horang-1, then beat Daweoo Royals 3-1 to amass 30 points from 13 matches. Hyundai struggled to beat Chun-Nam Dragons 1-0, to finish second with 26 points from 13 matches, while Posco Atoms took third spot.

BANGLADESH

THE Bangladesh FA have created an unenviable record by completing a year without an FA president. Oli Ahmed, a senior Cabinet Minister, had resigned in August 1994 when his demand for a full-time general secretary, to save the country's dilapidated football standards, was unheeded.

Defending champions Abahani KC, under the Russian coach Valeri Boghadbon, were unbeaten in the first half of the Lifebuoy Premier League, with 23 points from nine matches.

AZAM MAHMOOD

JORDAN

INTERNATIONAL striker Jeries Tadros claimed a hat-trick as Al Faysali defeated Al Ramtha 4-0 and won the Cup Final for a record ninth time. Jaafar Hamad scored the other goal.

SYRIA

AL ITTIHAD of Aleppo won the title for the fifth time after the play-off round between the four best-placed clubs at the end of the second stage. Al Wathba and Al Jazira are relegated, with Al Jaish, Al Majd, Aleppo Police and Barada promoted to a newly-adopted 14 club format.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

1990 World Cup Goalkeeper Mohsen Musabah saved a crucial penalty during the shoot-out to help Sharjah to win the Emir's Cup for a record sixth time.

The final against Al Ain, the new Super Cup champions, ended goalless after extra time, but Sharjah eventually won 5-4. On their way to the final, Sharjah beat Bani Yas 3-2 by virtue of a Golden Goal, then ousted Al Nasr 1-0 in the semi-finals.

Al Ain had a much more difficult task, knocking out league champs Al Shabab 2-1 and Al Wasl 5-4 on penalty kicks, after their semi-final ended scoreless.

MOHAMED CHBARO

CHINA

Liaoning start the return trip

LIAONING, the big club who fell on hard times, seem to be on their way back, although they are unlikely to add to their impressive list of honours this season.

They have found new financial backers to replace those who had broken off relations with the club, have a stronger financial base to give their players security, and have a new coach.

Players are now on 8,000 yuan (£600) per month as a basic wage, and the coach is Li Shubin, returning to the club where he used to be a player.

On the pitch, Liaoning resumed after the summer break with a 4-2 win over the defending champions, Dalian, encouraging hopes that they would quickly climb the table.

This was a poor start for the new Dalian coach, Chi Shangbin, returning to his home country after a spell with Gamba Osaka's youth team in Japan.

The leaders, Beijing, restarted with a 4-0 defeat of Qingdao, and second-placed Shanghai won by the same score against Jinan. These last two teams will meet again in the Cup Final in November, Shanghai having knocked out Guangdon in one semi-final and Jinan having disposed of Beijing in the other.

There was a third 4-0 result in the League when Guangdong beat Tianjin, who badly missed goalkeeper Shi Lianzhi and midfielder Hou Jianting. Both have been suspended for six months by the CFA, for misbehaviour in a Cup match against Shanghai.

ZHENG MING

HONG KONG

TV pundit plays again

AN investigation by the Hong Kong FA into allegations of match-fixing has failed to find any evidence to uphold the claims.

The Asia Football Confederation ordered the investigation after South China's Albert Hung alleged that gambling on matches had affected some results.

The two new teams in the League for next season are Hong Kong FC and Mansion, who changed their name to Carrianna after finding sponsorship from a film company.

Former Leyton Orient and Crystal Palace player Tony Sealy, who has been working as a pundit on local television, has come out of retirement and joined Hong Kong.

Happy Valley have replaced the seven Russians signed last season with seven Scots, all with Scottish League experience. One is former Rangers player Ian McCall.

One of the Russians, goalkeeper Victor Derbunov, looks likely to stay in Hong Kong, with Rangers, who have changed their name to Uhlsport Rangers after new sponsorship.

The Hong Kong FA are looking into the possibility of inviting England to play an international against Hong Kong before the hand-over to China on July 1, 1997.

TAI WAI CHEUNG

MALAYSIA

From dream to nightmare

COACH Claude Le Roy's dream of the Olympic Games is turning into a nightmare.

Frenchman Le Roy's Olympic selection failed to reach the second round of the qualifying competition for places in the Atlanta Games next year, managing only one point from their matches against China and Singapore. He is now hoping for better things in the qualifiers for the 1996 Asian Cup, against Indonesia and India in Group Four.

But he will not be able to field his strongest selection, because skipper Matlan Marjan has been banned from soccer for life, with five Sabah teammates, for conspiracy to fix results, and another, Azman Adnan, has been suspended for a year after leaving training camp without permission.

● SIX NATIONS contested Malaysia's annual Merdeka Cup, with Iraq, last-minute replacements for Algeria, beating Hungary 2-0 in the final. Malaysia, Uzbekistan, South Korea and Bulgaria were the other competitors.

OMOSEYE BOLAJI

Dunga heads an impressive list

BRAZILIAN captain Dunga's arrival at Jubilo Iwata restores the number of current Brazilian national team players in the J.League to seven.

The others are keeper Gilmar at Cerezo Osaka, Leonardo and Jorginho at Kashima Antlers, Zinho and Cesar Sampaio at Yokohama Flugels, and Ronaldo at Shimizu S Pulse, though he looks set to join Flamengo.

Japan's Brazilian connections keep getting closer. Five J.League teams are currently under Brazilian management – Kashima Antlers (Edu), Kashiwa Reysol (Antoninho, who has just replaced Ze Sergio). Verdy Kawasaki (Nelsinho), Yokohama Flugels (Antonio Carlos Da Silva) and Cerezo Osaka (Paulo Emilio).

Nicanor, the head coach at Bellmare Hiratsuka, is also a key architect of his team. Shimizu S Pulse, though now under a Japanese, Masakatsu Miyamoto, were moulded by four-time World Cup keeper Leao.

The number of former Brazilian internationals who played and are playing in Japan is almost beyond counting. The list starts with such world-class stars as Oscar at Nissan, now the manager of Kyoto Sanga in the Japan Football League, and Zico at Kashima Antlers.

New arrivals for the 1995 second stage are Mozer from Benfica and Mazinho from Flamengo at Antlers, Caio from Portuguesa at Kashiwa Reysol, and Bernardo, who has just joined Cerezo Osaka on a five-month loan from Corinthians.

Kashiwa Reysol have two other former national team players, Careca and Nelsinho. They also had Muller until recently. Urawa Red Diamonds have just signed Toninho from Shimizu S Pulse. Verdy Kawasaki have Bismarck, who scored the winning goal in the first match between Japan and Brazil in Rio in 1989.

Yokohama Flugels have Evair. Bellmare Hiratsuka still have Betinho, though Almir recently returned to Brazil. Nagoya Grampus Eight have Torres. Cerezo Osaka have defender Toninho and striker Marquinhos.

Including those without national team experience, over 30 Brazilians are now registered in the J.League.

The flow has even started moving the other way. Kazuyoshi Miura's adventures in Brazil are well known. But Amoroso, voted best player in Brasileiro '94 and top scorer with 19 goals for Guarani, cut his teeth in Japan.

Another youngster who made his name at Verdy Kawasaki, is Bentinho, who has scored 20 goals this year for Sao Paulo but now returns to Japan to replace Muller at Kashiwa Reysol.

Yokohama Flugels currently have a promising 17-year-old Brazilian in Rodrigo, signed this year from Paname Clube. He stood in bravely while Zinho and Cesar Sampaio were off on national team duty. Zico's 16-year-old son Bruno is joining the Antlers youth team this year.

The strength of the Brazilian ties are due to the large Japanese ethnic population in Brazil. Over a million people of Japanese origin live there, and their presence has provided unparalleled connections. Many J.League matches are televised live in Brazil.

Yanmar Diesel (now Cerezo Osaka) led the way with the signing of a Japanese-Brazilian, Nelson Yoshuimura, in 1967, followed by Carldose Esteves in 1969. Yanmar used a string of Brazilians through the 1970s. Fujita (now Bellmare Hiratsuka) were next, bringing in Sergio Echigo in 1972, along with Japanese-Peruvian Carlos Matsuda.

Yomiuri (now Verdy Kawasaki) took the plunge in 1978 with Ruy Ramos, Jorge Yonashiro and Jairo Matos. Both Ramos and Yonashiro went on to take Japanese nationality. Yonashiro played for Japan in a crucial World Cup qualifier against South Korea in November, 1985. Ramos, now 38, has 32 full caps.

● JAPAN's national team maintained the momentum from the Umbro Cup with a 3-0 win over Costa Rica, but then crashed 5-1 in a rematch with Brazil on a sweltering day in Tokyo.

On Mario Zagalo's birthday at Tokyo's National Stadium. Zagalo fielded seven players from the J.League, who quickly showed that they know all about Japanese football. Ruy Ramos returned for Japan against his old country.

Brazil's goals came from Hashiratani (own goal), Giovanni, Leonardo, Cesar Sampaio and Savio. Miura set up Japan's goal for Masahiro Fukuda shortly after the break.

MIKE PLASTOW & MICHI ISHIJIMA

Brazilians in the J.League

Kashima Antlers: Jorginho, Leonardo, Mozer, Masinho.
JEF United Ichihara: Sandro.
Kashiwa Reysol: Careca, Nelsinho, Valdir Beneditor, Bentinho, Wolnei Caio.
Urawa Red Diamonds: Toninho.
Verdy Kawasaki: Pereira, Embu, Bismarck, Alcindo.
Yokohama Flugels: Zinho, Cesar Sampaio, Evair, Rodrigo.
Bellmare Hiratsuka: Edson, Betinho, Simao.
Shimizu S Pulse: Ronaldo, Santos, Dias, Sidmar.
Jubilo Iwata: Dunga.
Nagoya Grampus Eight: Torres.
Cerezo Osaka: Gilmar, Junior, Toninho, Marquinhos, Bernardo.
Sanfrecce Hiroshima: Andrey.

y from Brazil . . .
shima Antlers
onardo

Hot-shot Schillaci

SALVATORE SCHILLACI *(pictured)* of Jubilo Iwata, top scorer in the Suntory Series with 24 goals, received the million yen (about £6,600) Player of the Series award.

Schillaci, dogged by injury in his first J.League season last year, was ever-present for the Suntory Series this year and had the scoring rankings sewn up with room to spare.

Schillaci was helped by the return of striker Masashi Nakayama. Without all of last year and in the current Nicos series his performances are likely to be further enhanced by the arrival of Brazilian captain Dunga.

Hiroaki Morishima of Cerezo Osaka, earned 250,000 yen (£1,650) as Rookie of the Series.

A Best Eleven, winning 500,000 yet (£3,300) each, comprised: Shimokawa (JEF), Ihara (Yokokhama Marinos), Buchwald (Red Diamonds), Soma (Antlers), Yanagimoto (Sanfrecce), Hashiratani (Verdy), Fujita (Jubilo), Stojkovic (Grampus Eight), Fukuda (Red Diamonds), Schillaci (Jubilo), and Noguchi (Bellmare).

Go-go Grampus!

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT set a J.League record on the opening day of the Nicos Series by winning their 11th home League game on the trot.

Grampus' record was extended to 12 the following Saturday, with a 3-1 win against Gamba Osaka.

The first day of the new stage had plenty of fireworks. Urawa Red Diamonds knocked in six goals away to Asian Super Cup winners Yokohama Flugels, and Kazuyoshi Miura made a triumphant return to Verdy Kawasaki, scoring two in the 3-1 win over Bellmare Hiratsuka – double his entire Serie A tally for Genoa.

First stage champions Yokohama Marinos made no mistake with a steady 2-0 win at Kashima Antlers, where Mozer made his J.League debut. Daniele Massaro also had a losing debut for his new club, Shimizu S Pulse, who went down 1-0 to Sanfrecce Hiroshima. Kashima and Shimizu both recovered to win their next two games.

Verdy Kawasaki, who moved in tandem with Nagoya Grampus Eight from the bottom of the first stage table, confirmed their strength with the club's 13th, 14th and 15th consecutive wins.

Besides those victories over Bellmare and Jubilo, they also edged out first stage champions Marinos 1-0 at Tokyo's national stadium. Kazu played alongside Alcindo, displacing Nobuhiro Takeda, Verdy's top scorer in the first stage with 13 goals.

Urawa Red Diamonds pulled off a coup during the break by grabbing Brazilian striker Toninho on a five-month loan from Shimizu S Pulse. Manager Holger Osieck has built a firm defensive wall around Guido Buchwald, but still needed a target man.

All worked well in the 6-0 rout of Yokohama Flugels. But when Reds opened their renovated Komaba Stadium, the headlines were stolen by the man who had displaced Toninho at Shimizu S Pulse.

Daniele Massaro hurt his lower back just before the second stage began. He made his big kick-off, but did not manage even a share of Shimizu S Pulse's paltry three shots in the opening game.

Against Reds, it was a different story. First, Massaro netted the equaliser with a powerful header, then his 80th-minute through ball sent Teruyoshi Ito on his way to knock home the winner.

Massaro also set up Masaaki Sawanobori's first goal against Bellmare in the third game, but he had to be substituted when his back became too painful.

Defensive rock. . . Guido Buchwald of Urawa Red Diamonds

Sanfrecce Hiroshima made a quiet but steady start with two 1-0 victories and a 1-0 defeat. Their fans did have something to be excited about despite the goal shortage: centre-forward Taruya Takagi is back after eight months.

National team striker Takagi had suffered a severe tendon injury in last year's J.League Suntory Championship match with Verdy Kawasaki. He returned as substitute against Cerezo Osaka.

Kashiwa Reysol, who finished bottom of the first stage, delighted fans with two wins out of three. The revival began during the break with a 3-2 win over Flamengo, a game memorable for Romario's clash with teammate Savio as Flamengo trailed 3-0. Rodrigo and Edmundo eventually saved some face for the Brazilians.

Reysol started the new stage under new management, having fired Ze Sergio, the former South American Player of the Year who had led them into the J.League. His replacement is 56-year-old Antoninho, who came to the club last year as goalkeeping coach.

MIKE PLASTOW & MICHI ISHIJIMA

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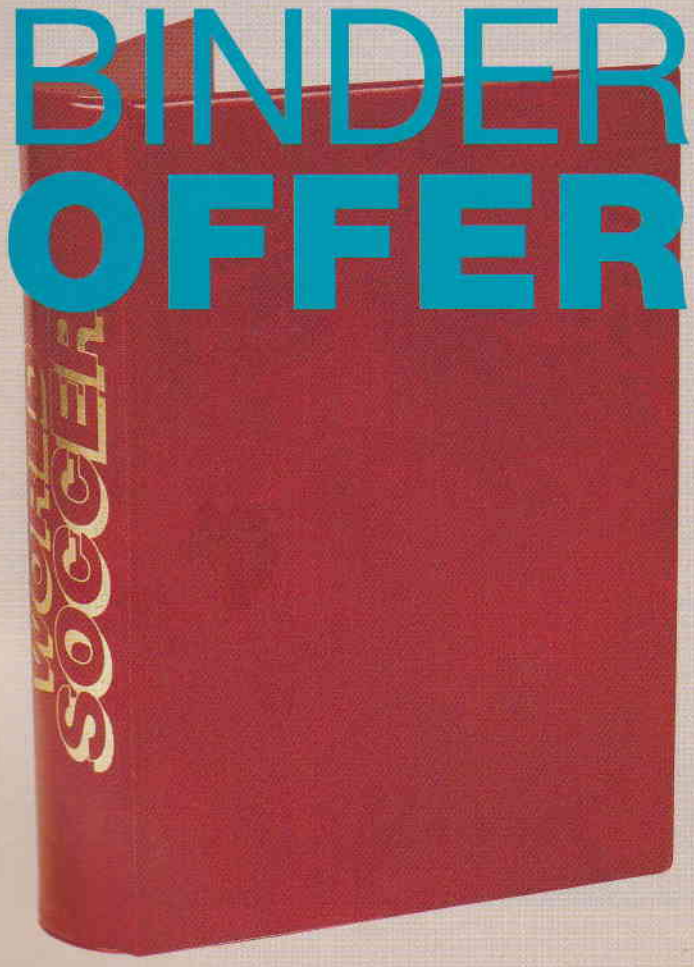

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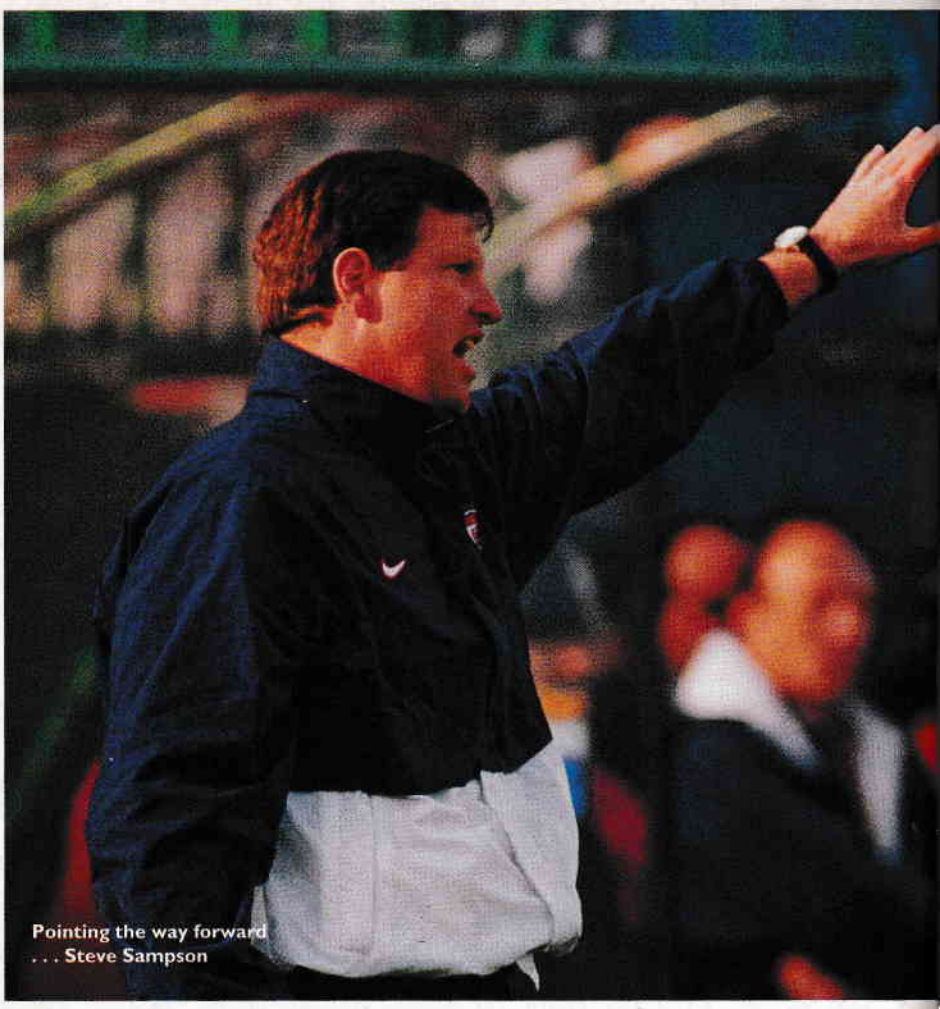
UNITED STATES

My way

US national coach Steve Sampson explains his view of the future to WORLD SOCCER's Paul Gardner



Pointing the way forward . . . Steve Sampson

ALAN ROTHENBERG, president of the United States Soccer Federation, had said it publicly: the new coach of the national team will be a foreigner – we need their international experience.

While the search went on, interim coach Steve Sampson – every inch an American – was getting remarkable results with the team. Victory in the US Cup 95 (including wins over Nigeria and Mexico) was followed by a fourth-place finish in the Copa America in Uruguay. That included the USA's first-ever wins over Chile and Argentina.

Rothenberg bowed to the obvious, and Sampson now has a three-year contract, reportedly worth $200,000 a year, which takes him through the 1998 World Cup in France.

Paul Gardner, the US correspondent for *WORLD SOCCER*, spoke to Sampson about his new appointment.

WORLD SOCCER: Do you feel resentful about the rather reluctant way in which you were appointed?

STEVE SAMPSON: No, there's no resentment, I understand their reasoning. I feel honoured. Rothenberg has assured me I will have "all the resources necessary". I have the right to select my assistants – at the moment, I want to bring on Clive Charles full-time, and retain the goalkeeper coach Milutin Soskic.

Do you and the USSF see eye-to-eye on the objectives of the national team?

Right now, we're still in the honeymoon stage, and I'm getting their full support and am very happy – but, obviously, things can change. Are they willing to allow me to experiment with players the way that I need to, even at the risk of losing matches? That is the big question mark. How important is winning in the overall scheme of things? To win, to market, and to promote – should that be the priority for the national team? I would argue that it shouldn't be – the only way I'm going to develop a young player, like Jason Kirovski, for the World Cup is to give him significant playing time.

What is the most important immediate task?

It was made quite clear to me what my main priority will be. I think Rothenberg wants to make sure that nothing gets in the way of qualifying for France – and that's fine by me. We must develop a long-term plan for the next 18 months – what friendlies we're to play, when, where. The CONCACAF Gold Cup (January 10-27 in Southern California) is the most important tournament so far. The friendly games are very important for the development of the World Cup team, to give younger players international experience – so that when we make substitutions the level doesn't drop. I've proposed a national B team for those players.

How was that proposal received?

They didn't say no! Simultaneously, I have to be looking for additional talent both domestically and internationally. We have to put out every kind of feeler overseas, to find out if there are any qualified American citizens out there. I've suggested we have a number of week-long camps where we can look at players under training and match conditions.

So World Cup 98 begins now?

It began months and months ago.

It's not going to be easy, is it, when virtually all of your top players are with overseas clubs?

It's not. We're at a big disadvantage within CONCACAF, where most of the countries have the vast majority of their players playing in their own leagues. But I've already begun the process of visiting various club coaches in Europe to establish good relations, so that I can get players released, even for a friendly if I consider it important. But the opportunities to get a full team will be rare.

Your devotion to attacking soccer will continue?

Yes – that's Steve Sampson. There'll be times when it succeeds and times when we'll fail, but the style will remain. To go forward, but without exposing ourselves. We always have to close down space and cover for each other. It demands an understanding . . . and a desire to run.

The US players now seem to have more freedom than they had under Bora Milutinovic

That has to be – the players have to have the freedom to experiment – as long as the decisions are intelligent. But our players now play in leagues around the world, where they do this and they understand how and when to do it. That makes it easier for me to allow that freedom. It's a critical step if American soccer is to improve at the international level – otherwise we're a very predictable and boring side.

How is an American player treated overseas, by and large?

With foreign coaches, the US player is always the first one left off the roster or dropped. When a new coach comes in, the first player to be sold is always the American. What these players want, what they deserve, is respect. That's what I try to give them, because what they've accomplished overseas, given their history and their background, is truly phenomenal.

What is your answer to those who see you as Mr Nice Guy, trying to satisfy everyone with constant team line-up changes?

A coach needs to be one way in public and another if necessary, behind closed doors. I can mix it up with the best of them. If necessary. But nobody needs to come off arrogant or egotistical with the media. If there are people who perceive this as a weakness, they don't know Steve Sampson very well.

MEXICO

Bora back in charge

THE controversial figure of Bora Milutinovic is back in Mexican soccer, as manager of the national team.

Much-travelled Milutinovic had a good record during his previous spell in charge, 1983-86, when the team won more games than they lost. The highlight was reaching the World Cup semi-finals in their own country, losing on penalties to Germany.

Now, however, as Milutinovic replaces Miguel Mejia Baron, who was sacked recently, many people remember Bora's business dealings with less respect than they have for his coaching abilities.

During the build-up to the 1986 World Cup, Mexico played 46 matches abroad and only six in their own country. Los Angeles became almost a home ground for the team, with many matches being played there because of a TV contract.

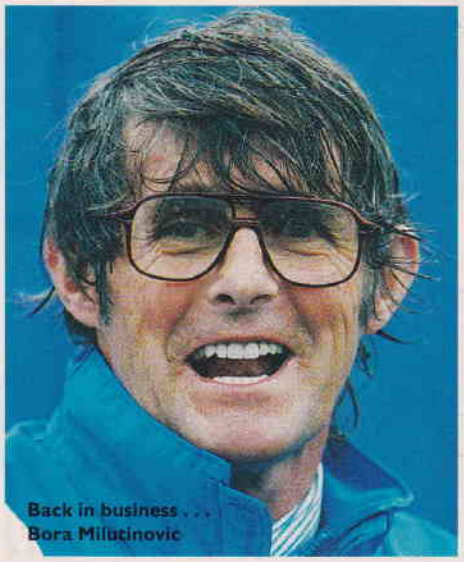
People also recall Milutinovic's unimpressive performances in Argentina and Italy, followed by his last-minute appearance with Costa Rica in the 1990 World Cup, when Marvin Rodrigues was suddenly and surprisingly dismissed after taking the Central Americans to the finals.

Now Bora is back, after his lengthy spell as coach to the USA. Developments are awaited with interest.

The new season began in Mexico with only 18 teams in the top division and an array of South and Central Americans having been hired and switched around.

They include Spanish veteran Emilio Butragueno, who is being paid a fortune by recently-promoted Atletico Celaya.

CARLOS RAMIREZ



Back in business . . . Bora Milutinovic

CANADA

Old reasons still apply

THE world in general is always puzzled by the fact that soccer has not attained the popularity in Canada and the United States that it has in the rest of the world.

One of the reasons is that, in the two countries with large ethnic populations, support is more often than not split along ethnic lines and only rarely is it possible to unite the various national groups. Also fans who grew up watching top soccer elsewhere in the world, and with allegiances to various clubs outside North America, have little or no interest in the local variety of soccer.

So if these self-proclaimed followers will not support Canadian and American soccer, what hope is there in attracting the native-born fan?

A typical example of the problem surfaced in Toronto recently. There Canada's national team played Turkey, and then participated in the newly-organised Caribana Cup competition against Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

The game between Canada and Turkey drew a crowd of 9,115, and the match against Jamaica attracted a crowd of 5,333. Canada against T & T drew 3,509. Yet the game between the two West Indian teams drew 6,782.

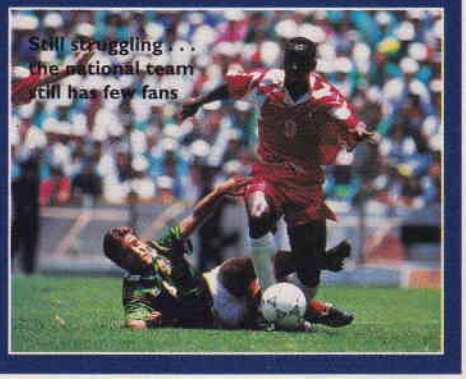
A week later an all-star team from the Canadian National Soccer League played Italian club Parma, and the attendance was 17,000. Thus it becomes clear that the Turkish and West Indian population of Toronto showed up in small numbers, and the Italian population in much larger numbers, to support their team, while the Canadians, as usual, were conspicuous by their absence.

The challenge always has been to unite the thousands of fans living in the southern Ontario area behind one team, but it seems this cannot be achieved even with the national squad. Obviously the hearts and minds of the soccer fans of this area lie not with the country they now call home, but with the countries they used to call home.

Canada, after struggling against Turkey, defeated both Jamaica and T & T 3-1. The unlikely hero was previously uncapped Montreal Impact midfielder Tom Kouzmanis, who scored twice in each game while replacing captain Colin Miller, who is injured. Canada's third goal against Jamaica was scored by Geoff Aunger, and Stoke City's Paul Peschisolido got the third in the other match.

Parma, making their first visit to Toronto, following the Parmalat Cup in New York, coasted past the All-Stars, 5-0.

COLIN JOSE



Still struggling . . . the national team still has few fans

SHELL CARIBBEAN CUP

T & T on top

AN IMPRESSIVE Trinidad and Tobago squad sent a clear message to the entire CONCACAF region by defeating St Vincent and the Grenadines 5-0, to win the 1995 Shell Caribbean Cup in Grand Cayman.

The victory emphasised T & T's re-emergence as a regional football force. They scored 21 goals in five matches during the tournament, and conceded only three.

And they did all this without three top players – Dwight Yorke (Aston Villa), Russell Latapy (Porto) and Jerren Nixon (Zurich) – because of club commitments.

They will be needed come January, though, when T & T enter the third CONCACAF Gold Cup as one of the Caribbean's two representatives. St Vincent and the Grenadines, who finished second, also make the trip to Southern California.

In the final, the champions scored three goals within a four-minute stretch during the first half. Angus Even, an own goal by Dexter Browne and Clint Marcelle were the scorers, and Terry St Louis and Arnold Dwarika also got their names on the scoresheet, in the 65th and 68th minutes.

GUATEMALA

Defending champions Municipal will play Xelaju in the final of the 1995 Guatemalan Cup, after winning tight semi-finals 1-0.

Municipal defeated Comunicaciones with a goal by the opportunistic Juan Carlos Plata, and Selvin Rivera Galindo's fifth goal of the competition took unfancied Xelaju past Aurora.

In group play, Municipal posted the largest margin of victory in top-flight Guatemalan football since 1976 when they cruised to an 11-0 win over Juca. Plata led the way with four goals in a 26-minute stretch.

EL SALVADOR

FAS showed how serious they are about defending their championship by starting pre-season training with an unprecedented fourth-match visit to the United States.

Although they returned without a win, the trip was still considered a success due to the high level of competition.

After losing 2-0 to Mexican champions Necaxa, FAS drew 0-0 with Club America and 2-2 with Long Island Rough Riders, then finished with a 3-1 loss to Atlante.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

ECM Motown pulled within one point of undefeated Defence Force with a 2-1 win over Police. Nigel Woodley and Vernon Bailey scored first-half goals for the winners.

SCOTT GLEBA

UNITED STATES

HUGO SANCHEZ is the latest player to sign up for Major League Soccer when it starts next season. He joins fellow Mexican, goalkeeper Jorge Campos, who will play for the Los Angeles team. Sanchez has yet to decide which of the 10 sides he will play for.

Others who have signed up include several American World Cup stars – Alexei Lalas, Tab Ramos, Mike Lapper and Mike Burns – along with Jamaica's Peter Isaacs and two young Hispanics, 19-year-old midfielder Felipe Rodriguez and 18-year-old midfielder Jorge Flores.

AUSTRALIA

Ned gets the nod

QPR's Ray Wilkins has put Ned Zelic's career back on track. Paul Moon follows the 24-year-old Australian's trail to England

NED ZELIC's £1,250,000 transfer from Borussia Dortmund to Queen's Park Rangers was one of the more intriguing developments during the English close season.

Although such a fee can no longer be considered startling and Zelic is undisputably a highly-talented player, the move must be regarded as risky in view of the player's recent knee problems.

If any player from the south seas appeared destined to achieve superstardom, it was Zelic. Three years ago, he was widely hailed as the Great White Hope of Australian Soccer.

The son of Croatian immigrants, he was born in Sydney on July 4, 1971, and christened Nedijeklo. The family moved to Canberra soon afterwards.

Although Zelic's father had been a useful amateur player in Croatia and soccer has become an important facet of Croatian culture, particularly transplanted Croatian culture, Zelic Senior placed no pressure upon his son to take up the game.

Ned's introduction to what was to provide him with his livelihood came when aged nine, through pamphlets circulated by the Canberra North club at schools throughout their district.

Once playing, Zelic rekindled his father's enthusiasm and today neighbours still readily recall his building an inner fence around the Zelic family garden to placate them by providing protection for the original structure, which Ned had continually damaged through endless hours of kicking a ball against it. Dad also bought a mattress so his son could try overhead kicks on the lawn without hurting himself.

Zelic spent two years at the Australian Institute of Sport, time he believes was crucial to his development, and was only 17 when he made his National League debut for Sydney Croatia. After just nine outings, he was farmed out to sister club Canberra Croatia, having been deemed too frail for the rigours of Australia's premier domestic competition.

At this stage Zelic came into contact with Tommy Sermanni, a Scot who had been a moderate player with Albion Rovers, Blackpool and Torquay, before moving to Australia.

Sermanni worked diligently to improve Zelic's physique, technique and confidence. He was so successful that Zelic won a full cap for the Australian Olympic team and established himself among the best sweepers on the local scene.

After prolonged differences with Croatia officials, Sydney Olympic swooped to sign him for £70,000 – the record for an internal move. He had made only 37 appearances, spread over three years.

Zelic was to spend only one full season with Olympic, the flagship of Sydney's Greek community, before moving into the European professional arena. The attention of old World clubs had been initially gained through his National League exploits. That attention increased manifold during Australia's 1991-92 Olympic Games campaign.

Zelic is assured of a special place in Australian sporting folklore through his amazing goal scored in injury time, from a seemingly impossible angle, that turned defeat against Holland in the final Olympic qualifier into an historic victory on away goals.

That moment of magic in Utrecht was primarily responsible for Zelic's Australian Footballer of the Year award, an accolade otherwise monopolised by Rugby League and Australian Rules players.

Now, however, this can be regarded as something of a millstone around his neck. Many Australian fans expect him to score equally spectacular goals whenever he pulls on a green and gold jersey – an unrealistic expectation of anyone, particularly a man whose 56 Australian National League appearances yielded only a single goal.

By the time the Olyroos claimed fourth place in Barcelona, Zelic had become a Borussia Dortmund player and ended several months of speculation. Olympic received £230,000, and now get 15 per cent of the sum QPR paid, thanks to a clause in the original transfer document.

Zelic settled into the Bundesliga speedily, and with aplomb, while also consolidating his place in the Australian senior selection he first represented against Czechoslovakia in February 1991.

His knee problems began with an injury sustained in Bundesliga action, immediately after returning from the first leg of Australia's World Cup qualifying tie against Argentina in November 1993.

Two further injuries to different parts of the same knee and two operations later, he was only able to play a cameo role in Borussia's run-in to the 1994-95 German championship.

Coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, however, was eager to strengthen his playing squad in preparation for Borussia's Champions Cup campaign, and Zelic was the most expendable member of the club's foreign contingent.

His link with QPR is a little puzzling. According to Aussie media reports at the time, he had rejected Leeds three years ago, believing that the hurly-burly of English soccer would not suit him. QPR manager, Ray Wilkins, however, has apparently convinced Zelic that the English game – or at least the mode Wilkins envisages for Rangers – will be his can of Fosters.

Zelic, always at ease when in possession, capable of long, surging, ball-carrying runs from deep positions, and exceptionally accurate in his distribution, is equally competent as either a libero or midfielder.

The one obvious potential negative, of course, is the troublesome knee. But should Zelic be able to maintain his fitness, Rangers will have acquired that modern rarity – a bargain on the transfer market.

NEW ZEALAND

THIS SEASON'S Chatham Cup Final will be an all-Auckland affair.

In their semi-finals, holders Waitakere City overcame Roslyn-Wakari 2-1, and last year's Superclub champions, North Shore United, hammered Christchurch Rangers 4-0. Although narrower, Waitakere's victory was the more impressive, gained away in Dunedin against a previously undefeated side.

Clinical finishing by Kevin Smith and Darren McClennan gave City a two-goal half-time lead. Mark Foy pulled one back immediately after the break and Roslyn-Wakari applied immense pressure during the closing stages, but the visitors held on.

North Shore always maintained an iron grip upon their game with disappointing Rangers. Mark Elrick scored in the second minute, and the only surprise was that 62 more passed before Tony Jasper increased the lead. Bill Harris and Steve Nickson completed the scoring.

Both Waitakere and North Shore remain in contention for the domestic double, having also won through to the Superclub Championship's National Round and left Mount Wellington, Waikato United and Ellerslie to determine the north zone's third qualifier.

Waitakere's 7-1 thrashing of The Mount underlines the gap that has emerged in 1995 between the elite and even the best of the also-rans in all three regions.

MAURICE TILLOTSON, a native of the Yorkshire Dales, has been appointed coach of the New Zealand national women's team.

He played for Huddersfield Town and Royal Antwerp before gaining 20 caps for New Zealand, and successfully coached men's sides at national league level, but has been more involved with the women's game in recent years.

INTERCONTINENTAL CUP

WITH no Oceania Cup having been contested since 1980 and little likelihood of its restoration in the near future, the region's leading soccer administrators have devised a play-off series to determine their representatives for the Intercontinental Cup, proposed for 1997.

The winners of the clash between the holders of the Melanesia Cup, Solomon Islands, and the Polynesia Cup, Tahiti, during the forthcoming South Pacific Games tournament in Papeete will meet the victors of the next home and away series between Australia and New Zealand.

This has been provisionally scheduled for November 10 and 15 this year.

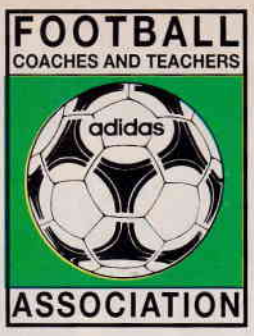
AUSTRALIA

IN ADDITION to 100-plus Australians playing professionally in Europe, several dozen are now earning a living in the Asian leagues.

The cash-rich Malaysian League has the greatest density of Aussie exiles, with 21. They include Selangor striker David Mitchell (ex Feyenoord, Chelsea, Glasgow Rangers, Eintracht Frankfurt, Millwall and Newcastle) and Pahang defender Alan Davidson, who had a brief stint with Nottingham Forest in the mid-1980s.

Mitchell and Davidson are now 33 and 35 respectively.

PAUL MOO



Bid to boost women's soccer

THE Report on our second Annual Convention in last month's *WORLD SOCCER* illustrated the tremendous growth of the organisation over the last few months.

Hopefully our progressive attitude has encouraged the development of the game at all levels and by both genders.

We have attempted to stimulate grass-roots coaches so they adopt a positive attitude to new ideas in this country and elsewhere. AFCAT has also acknowledged the universal growth of the girls' and women's game by encouraging women coaches to participate and watch demonstrations by Gail Colling from Scarborough and John Cartwright with Southampton Girls' Youth Team.

Also present at the Convention were Sue Lopez (AFCAT Committee Member and Hants FA Coaching and Development Officer), Julie Hemsley (England Women's Team Assistant and Brighton & Hove Albion Representative) and Kate Adeogun (Crawley FC), all three having just returned from FIFA's second Women's World Championships in Sweden, where England reached the Quarter Finals of the Tournament.

For the record, Norway beat Germany 2-0 in the Rasunda Stadium, Stockholm, watched by 17,000.

Many 'new' nations throughout the world continue to improve upon their 1991 performances, such as Brazil and Nigeria, whilst China's fourth place reflected the great strides being made over there.

Sepp Blatter spoke very enthusiastically about the women's game and looks forward to the day when participation rates for men and women are almost equal.

Next year's Olympics will include women's football for the first time with USA, Norway, Germany, China, Sweden, Japan, Denmark and Brazil competing.

Bob Robinson, this year's President of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, detailed to us at our recent Convention that there are currently over *six million* women and girls playing soccer in America. This compares with 100,000 in Sweden, 70,000 in Germany, 55,000 in Norway, yet only 13,000 in England.

However, many new initiatives such as small-sided leagues, PFA Community Schemes and the fact that girls can now play until the age of 11 with school teams, will encourage those youngsters to come into the game. AFCAT must help ex-women players and stars to develop their coaching knowledge and experience, particularly at the grass-roots level, to enable them to improve their skills and technique.

World beaters . . . the Norwegian women's team

We must learn from those top nations, such as World Championship winners Norway, where Karen Espelund, who is a member of UEFA's Women's Committee, states that females are encouraged into positions of coaching and refereeing, being the opportunity to stimulate their football education and to act as role-models for the future.

AFCAT, therefore, intends to try and follow this theme and to contact the 500 or so Prelim Coaches around the country, to give them the opportunity to expand their own coaching knowledge.

"Women's football," says Sepp Blatter, "needs to evolve a style of its own, characterised by a certain elegance which has prevailed over a more robust impersonation of the man's game."

The better teams in Sweden were those whose players were true athletes, apparently capable of excelling in any sport – football will succeed in attracting players because of its own beauty and grace. Let AFCAT encourage that here in this country.

AFCAT MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

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Diary

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona says he will boycott Boca Juniors' Parmalat Cup trip to the United States because the US authorities have issued him with only a short-term visa.
BELGIUM: Anderlecht beat Club Brugge 2-1 to win the Belgian Supercup.
DENMARK: Police put the injury toll at 30 after the collapse on Sunday of a restraining wall at the game between Vejle and Brondby.
GERMANY: Alain Sutter decides to stay with Bayern Munich . . . Borussia Monchengladbach beat Ajax Amsterdam 5-2 in the final of their own pre-season tournament.
INDONESIA: One fan dies and 12 are injured in crowd fighting as Persib beat Petrokimia Putra 1-0 in the Asian Champions Cup play-off.
JAPAN: Japan beat Russia 3-2 in a friendly.
SPAIN: Espanol sell Bulgarian forward Velko Yotov to Newell's Old Boys of Argentina.
SWITZERLAND: FIFA bans the Norwegian federation from experimenting with bigger goals in a scheduled friendly between the national team and Liverpool.
TURKEY: Besiktas sign Lillestrom's Norwegian international midfielder Ronny Johnsen for a domestic record £1.2million.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

ACTION: Fortuna Dusseldorf beat Poland 3-1 in a friendly international in Germany.
ITALY: Napoli president Corrado Ferlaino announces success in the club's immediate struggle to stave off bankruptcy and maintain their place in Serie A . . . Attilio Lombardo, just signed from Sampdoria, breaks a leg in his first game for Juventus.
UNITED STATES: Steve Sampson is confirmed as national coach.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

ENGLAND: John Fashanu of Aston Villa is forced to retire with knee trouble.
POLAND: Legia goalkeeper Maciej Szczesby is given a suspended 10-month ban and fined 200 dollars with 12 hours' charity work after a scuffle with an abusive fan at the game last season against Stal Stalowa Woly.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

FRANCE: Nantes lose 2-1 at home to Paris Saint-Germain in the 'Match of the Season So Far'. New midfielder Jocelyn Gourvennec is carried off with ligament damage and is ruled out for the rest of the first half of the season.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

ARGENTINA: Daniel Passarella says he has not ruled out Diego Maradona and Claudio Caniggia from his national team plans.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

SPAIN: Rafael Martin Vazquez, La Coruna's new signing from Real Madrid, is out for six months after damaging knee ligaments.

MONDAY, AUGUST 7

GERMANY: Bayern Munich striker Jean-Pierre Papin is reported in the Italian media as claiming that two Milan players had accepted bribes to fix the result of the 1993 Champions Cup Final against Marseille.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

ACTION: European competition gets under way with the preliminary round first leg matches in the UEFA Cup.
GERMANY: Jean-Pierre Papin denies reports confirming a Champions Cup bribery scandal and says he was "merely discussing rumours".

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

ACTION: A shock for Anderlecht in the Champions League preliminary round first leg as they lose 1-0 at home to Ferencvaros.
FRANCE: Paris S-G skipper Alain Roche is out until Christmas after being injured in training . . . Paris S-G deny reports that they are considering cancelling Patrice Loko's contract after his brush with police and hospital authorities.
MEXICO: Bora Milutinovic is reappointed to his old post of Mexico national manager.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

SPAIN: Atletico Madrid sell Poland captain Roman Kosecki to French champions Nantes.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

BELGIUM: Interior Ministry reports indicate that tighter security has significantly reduced hooligan problems at league matches.
PORTUGAL: Benfica beat Milan 2-1 in a friendly in Lisbon . . . Benfica finally agree the on-off sale of Brazilian forward Ailton back to Sao Paulo.
SWITZERLAND: FIFA suspend Rune Hauge's agent's licence pending further inquiries into the George Graham affair.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

BELGIUM: Paul Van Himst is voted Player of the Century.
DENMARK: National coach Richard Moller Nielsen is to step down after the Euro '96 finals – assuming the Danes qualify.
SPAIN: Emilio Butragueno signs for Mexican club Atletico Celaya.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

ACTION: South Korea lose a friendly 1-0 to Brazil in Suwon. Dunga scores the winner.
SCOTLAND: Rangers sell French defender Basile Boli back home to Monaco.

MONDAY, AUGUST 14

GERMANY: Jurgen Klinsmann is ruled out for up to a month after injuring a tendon on his Bayern Munich League debut, a 3-2 win over Hamburg . . . Dortmund sign Uruguayan Ruben Sosa from Internazionale after failing with a bid for Real Madrid's Zamorano.
SWEDEN: The federations of Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland meet to discuss a joint bid to host the 2006 World Cup finals.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

ACTION: Portugal step up their Euro qualifying bid by winning 7-0 away to Liechtenstein.
GERMANY: Borussia Dortmund struggle to beat the part-timers of TSG Pfeddersheim 3-2 on penalties in a first round Cup tie.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

ACTION: The first major salvo of European qualifying ties sees title-holders Denmark win 2-0 away to Armenia but Austria lose ground after going down 3-2 away to Latvia. Scotland win 1-0 at home to Greece with an instant goal from substitute Ally McCoist . . . Rene Higuita saves one penalty and scores another himself as Atletico Nacional eliminate River Plate in their Copa Libertadores semi-final return. They will play Brazil's Gremio in the Final.
BELGIUM: Seraing sack coach Jean Thissen after losing their first two matches.
BRAZIL: Atletico Mineiro goalkeeper Taffarel needs 10 stitches in a head wound after being hit by a bottle thrown from a group of fans barracking players during a training session.
ENGLAND: Manchester United call off the £5m transfer of Andrei Kanchelskis to Everton in a dispute over demands from his previous club, Shakhtyor Donetsk, for a £1.1m cut of the fee.
HOLLAND: Manchester United are linked with Roda's Nigerian striker Tijiani Babangida.
SPAIN: The League decides to resolve the Sevilla-Celta crisis by readmitting them to the top division while maintaining the late promotees Albacete and Valladolid in a 22-club championship. After two years the League will be progressively reduced to 18 clubs.
TURKEY: Barry Venison and Mike Marsh face possible disciplinary action from Galatasaray after reports that they broke a club curfew.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

ACTION: In the World Under-17 semi-finals in Ecuador, Ghana beat Oman 3-1 and Brazil defeat Argentina 3-0.
BELGIUM: Champions Anderlecht sensationally sack German coach Herbert Neumann.
CHILE: Second division Fernandez Vial sign Argentina's 1978 World Cup-winning hero, Mario Alberto Kempes, now 39.
GERMANY: Stuttgart sell Eike Immel to Manchester City for £400,000 . . . injured Lothar Matthaus says he does hope to resume his career but rules out moving to Japan.
ITALY: Milan's long-injured Dutch striker Marco Van Basten announces his retirement.
WALES: Bobby Gould is appointed national team manager in succession to Mike Smith.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

HOLLAND: PSV Eindhoven beat promoted Fortuna Sittard 3-1 to open the season.
ITALY: Marco Van Basten bids farewell to Milan fans before the Luigi Berlusconi Trophy match in the Stadio Meazza in which the hosts lose to Juventus. Earlier Milan trainer Vicenzo Pincolini blamed the original 1980s surgery for the player's ankle problems.
MEXICO: Former Real Madrid and Mexico striker Hugo Sanchez says he will join Major League Soccer next year in the United States.
NIGER: Niger are fined £3,500 by the AFC for withdrawing from the Nations Cup.
SPAIN: Real Madrid players and coaching staff react with anger after racist slogans are sprayed on the stadium walls denigrating Colombian signing Fredy Rincon.
SWITZERLAND: UEFA overturn the result of a Cup-winners Cup qualifying round first leg – awarding Dag Liepaja of Latvia a 3-0 win over Estonia's FC Lantana. The Estonians fielded Andrei Borisov, who was still serving a three-match suspension imposed two seasons ago.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

ACTION: Belgian champions Anderlecht celebrate the arrival of Jean Dockx as new coach by thrashing Sint-Truiden 4-0 . . . England's Premiership opens with Manchester United crashing 3-1 away to Aston Villa . . . Paris Saint-Germain seize the lead from Bastia in France with an impressive 3-1 win at promoted Gueugnon . . . Bayern Munich thrash Karlsruhe 6-2 to go top of the Bundesliga . . . Verdy Kawasaki run up their 15th successive J-League victory, defeating Jubilo Iwata 1-0 . . . Paul Gascoigne marks his domestic competitive debut for Rangers with a spectacular goal in a 3-0 League Cup win over Morton.
ENGLAND: The FA cancel England's international against Croatia on September 6 because of the conflict in former Yugoslavia.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

ACTION: Ghana beat Brazil 3-2 in the World Junior Championship Final in Guayaquil . . . Ajax kick off the new Dutch season with a 4-0 win over Utrecht . . . Domingos Oliveira scores twice as Porto open the Portuguese season by defeating Sporting, last season's runners-up, 2-1.
BRAZIL: More than 100 people, including 22 policemen, are injured as fans of Palmeiras and Sao Paulo riot before the scheduled start of a youth tournament match in Sao Paulo.
PORTUGAL: Porto president Jorge Pinto da Costa says Bobby Robson is recovering at home from the removal of a cyst from his nose.

MONDAY, AUGUST 21

ENGLAND: Leicester's new Australian goalkeeper, Zeljko Kalac, is refused a work permit because he has not made enough competitive international appearances.
FRANCE: Lyon goalkeeper Patrick Olmeta makes an official complaint about a fan who spat at him during Sunday's 2-2 draw at Lens.
GERMANY: Bayern Munich president Franz Beckenbauer suggests that referees should award penalties for only the most obvious of offences to reduce the incidence of 'diving'.
ITALY: Faustino Asprilla, who said he would never play for Parma again, reports for pre-season training.
SPAIN: Real Madrid's Juan Eduardo Esnaider is ruled out of both legs of the Supercup through injury . . . new coach Dragoslav Stepanovic is under pressure already at Bilbao after player complaints that they are burned out with "having to run so much" in training.
UNITED STATES: MLS officials confirm that Hugo Sanchez has signed to play next year though his club remains undecided.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22

ACTION: Notable casualties in the UEFA Cup preliminary round: Red Star Belgrade fall to Neuchatel of Switzerland and Galatasaray go down to Sparta Prague . . . South Korea beat Indonesia 1-0 in an Olympic qualifier.
ENGLAND: Colombia step in to provide opposition for England at Wembley on September 6.
GERMANY: Dortmund sweeper Matthias Sammer undergoes cartilage surgery but hopes to be back in action within two weeks . . . Bayern Munich donate £250,000 to a fund to create a new Bundesliga club in Berlin.
ITALY: A friendly between Vicenza and Zaire is called off after a bureaucratic muddle in which the Italian embassy in Kinshasa refuses Zaire entry visas . . . America of Mexico bid for Sampdoria's veteran defender Marco Rossi.
SPAIN: Serb defender Miroslav Djukic signs a contract which will keep him with La Coruna until 1999 . . . Real Sociedad's Romanian midfielder Gheorghe Craioveanu will miss the start of the season after damaging ligaments in training . . . Santiago de Compostela make permanent their loan of Danish forward Bent Christensen from Schalke.
SWITZERLAND: Brazil maintain their lead at the top of FIFA's latest world rankings.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

ACTION: Belgium lose 2-1 at home to Germany in the match to inaugurate the new King Baudouin stadium, built on the site of the razed Heysel. More than 300 fans are arrested for troublemaking before the game . . . Anderlecht, Hajduk Split, Casino Salzburg and IFK Gothenburg are all eliminated in the Champions Cup preliminary round.
BRAZIL: Mario Zagalo recalls Bebeto for a friendly against Libya in Tripoli on September 6.
CROATIA: Croatia's European qualifier against Estonia next month is moved, on UEFA orders, from the port city of Split to Zagreb because of the renewed fighting in the region.
ENGLAND: Promoted Middlesbrough pay £1m for 24-year-old Croat forward Igor Cvitanovic from the Croatia '93 club.
FRANCE: Lille appoint Jean-Michel Cavalli

succession to Jean Fernandez, the first coach in the League to be sacked this season.

GERMANY: The DFB launches an investigation into claims by former international goalkeeper Uli Stein that, while with Hamburg in 1986-87, he was offered a bribe by Kaiserslautern to fix a key League game.

HOLLAND: Midfielder Luc Nijholt, 34, joins Volendam from English club Swindon.

LUXEMBOURG: Avenir Beggen protest to UEFA that they should be awarded their UEFA Cup preliminary tie against Orebro because the Swedes fielded too many foreign players.

PORTUGAL: Porto and Sporting draw 2-2 in the second leg of the Supercup. The replay is set for September 20.

SPAIN: The federation orders the League to call another extraordinary general meeting to reconsider the increase in the top division to 22 teams . . . Real Madrid's Ramon Mendoza reacts angrily to a speech by Barcelona's Jose Luis Nunez claiming the champions still owe money to Barcelona for Michael Laudrup.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA releases details of proposals put to FIFA for a political restructuring of the world game.

UNITED STATES: Roy Lassiter, the US national team striker arrested last month on burglary charges, agrees to play for Brazilian club Santos while awaiting the start of MLS.

WALES: Champions Afan Lido claim that six of their players were injured in a nightclub following the UEFA Cup tie in Riga on Tuesday.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

ACTION: In the preliminary round second legs of the Cup-winners Cup, Petr Samec scores four times as Hradec Kralove crush Liechtenstein's FC Vaduz 9-1.

BELGIUM: Former international Walter Meeuws is sacked as trainer of Mechelen.

FRANCE: PSG boss Luis Fernandez dismisses speculation that his job is under threat.

GERMANY: The DFB summons former national goalkeeper Uli Stein to testify before a panel next Wednesday on bribery allegations he made against Kaiserslautern.

ITALY: Juventus prepare to start the new season against Cremonese without injured Alessandro Del Piero and Gianluca Vialli.

PORTUGAL: Benfica prepare to start their league season with a dramatically recast new team including Brazilian veteran Valdo and Romanian Nica Panduru.

SCOTLAND: Rangers manager Walter Smith says he feared a hat-trick of Champions Cup failures would cost him his job.

SPAIN: La Coruna beat Real Madrid 3-0 in the first leg of the Supercup.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

SWITZERLAND: UEFA president Lennart Johansson denies that his proposals to reorganise FIFA is "picking a fight" with the world governing body but warns that he is prepared to take his plans direct to the national federations.

BELGIUM: Anderlecht's Gilles De Bilde spends the night in jail after reportedly headbutting one male nurse and punching another when he is denied access to a hospital room where his father is being treated.

RUSSIA: Moscow Spartak sell striker Nikolai Pisarev to promoted Spanish club Merida.

ENGLAND: The transfer of Andrei Kanchelskis is finally completed after Everton agree to pay half of the cash demanded by his former club Shakhtyor Donetsk. . . Ajax are drawn against Real Madrid in the UEFA Champions League.

HOLLAND: Ajax Amsterdam extend their record league unbeaten run to 36 games as they win 6-0 away to NEC Nijmegen.

OBITUARIES

LJUBISA BROCIC . . . one of the finest of many outstanding Yugoslav coaches, dies at the age of 81. Brocic, born on October 31, 1913, played for Yugoslavia in the mid-1930s and was a member of the national team coaching staff at the 1950 World Cup finals. Later he worked for Juventus (in 1958) as well as Internazionale and guided Barcelona to the 1961 Champions Cup Final. Broci also worked in Holland, Spain and the Middle and Far East.

JOHNNY CAREY . . . acknowledged as Manchester United's first post-war 'great', has died aged 75. Carey was captain of the United team which beat Blackpool 4-2 in the 1948 FA Cup Final and was a member of the side which clinched a first league title for Matt Busby in 1952. He played in 10 different positions while making 306 League appearances, 29 for the Republic of Ireland and seven for Northern Ireland. He also captained the Rest of the World against Great Britain in 1947. Carey once set a record of playing against England twice in three days for his two international sides in September 1946.

VACLAV JEZEK . . . who guided Czechoslovakia to victory in the 1976 European Championship, dies of a heart attack aged 72. Jezek coached the Czechoslovak national team at various times between 1972 and 1993. He also had spells as coach of Dutch club Feyenoord Rotterdam and Swiss side FC Zurich. He retired in 1994 and became president of the Czech-Moravian Football Union, the sport's governing body in the newly-independent Czech Republic.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

ACTION: Paris Saint-Germain stay top of the French League with a 2-0 win at Le Havre . . . Benfica open their League season with a 1-0 win at Tirsense . . . Rangers open with a 1-0 win over Kilmarnock.

CHINA: The national team beat Penarol of Uruguay 3-2 in a friendly in Beijing.

ITALY: FIGC president Antonio Matarrese admits he is worried about the prospects of having to take his national team to Croatia for a European qualifier in October.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

ACTION: Togo beat Tunisia 2-1 in an African Olympic qualifier . . . Italian champions Juventus start the new season in fine style by crushing Cremonese 4-1, Fabrizio Ravanelli scoring twice . . . La Coruna beat Real Madrid 2-1 in Madrid in the Supercup second leg and thus win 5-1 on aggregate.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona says he will prepare for his playing comeback in Cuba.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29

BELGIUM: Anderlecht bring back Johan Boskamp, less than three months after he was replaced by Herbert Neumann

BRAZIL: Rio police reopen the investigation into the kidnapping of Romario's father.

ENGLAND: David Platt pulls out of the England squad to face Colombia to undergo knee surgery.

FRANCE: Marseille sack coach Henri Stambouli . . . Rai scores his sixth goal in six games as Paris Saint-Germain win 2-0 away at Cannes.

GERMANY: Ruben Sosa scores twice for Borussi Dortmund, who still lose 3-2 to Hansa Rostock . . . Jurgen Klinsmann is expected to return from injury for the Euro qualifier against Georgia.

X-WORD

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The first five correct entries will each win a* WORLD SOCCER *sweatshirt. Send completed entries by OCTOBER 1, to:
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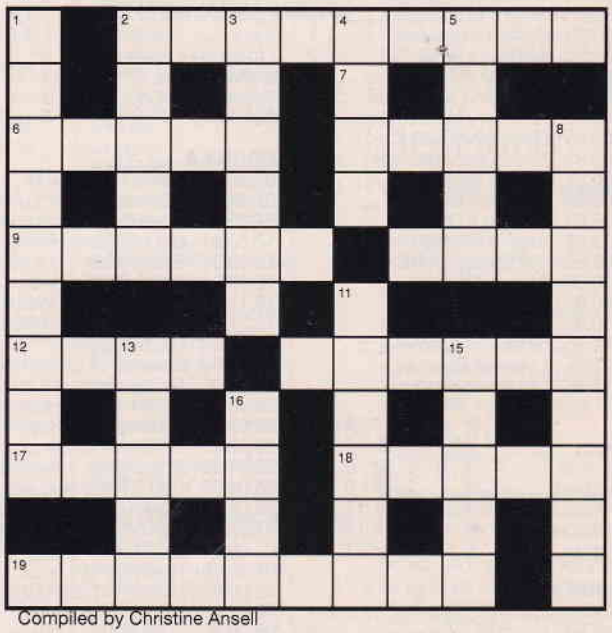
Richard Simpson, Cowbridge, S. Glamorgan, S. Wales; **Mr Ariel Hunkin,** Edenvale, South Africa; Eldar Mustafaev, Brooklyn, USA; **Mr Michael Dowey,** Doncaster, South Yorkshire, **Reza Ghaemi,** Montreal, Canada.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION
ACROSS: 1.Schuster. 6. Ajax. 7. Brazil. 9. Deehan. 10. Galli. 11. Derby. 14. Torino. 16. Baiano. 17. Bari. 18. Strandli.
DOWN: 2.Careca. 3. Toldo. 4. Ravenelli. 5. Lasa. 8. Zhalgiris. 12. Bernal. 13. Rober. 15. Oran.

CLUES ACROSS
2 .....Cypriot city, home of Salamina and Anorthosis (9)
6 .....Italian UEFA Cup representatives owned by Massimo Moratti (5)
7 .....Belgium's ex-Anderlecht striker recruited to PSV by Aad de Mos (5)
9 .....Ex-Atletico Madrid and Brazil midfielder in Napoli's title-winning team (6)
10 .....Promising Madrid forward who stars for Spain's youth team (4)
12 .....Home town of Luxembourg's champions (4)
14 .....Ex-Nurnberg and Hamburg Argentinian transferred to Mexico's Necaxa (6)
17 .....Keeper in Cremonese's promotion-winning side of 1993 (5)
18 .....Konkov's predecessor as Ukraine's national coach (5)
19 .....Argentina's 1990 World Cup custodian (9)

CLUES DOWN
1 .....Velez Sarsfield and Paraguay goalkeeper (9)
2 .....Portuguese forward in Italy with Reggiana and Milan (5)
3 .....Patrick ..... young sweeper establishing a career at St Etienne (6)
4 .....Atalanta's leading scorer snapped up by Internazionale (4)
5 .....Los Angeles ..... American Professional Soccer League side (5)
8 .....Danish League champions, 1994 (9)
11 .....Rainer Zobel's successor as Kaiserslautern coach (6)
13 .....Ex-Bayern, Admira Wacker and Austria forward with Tirol (5)
15 .....Argentina's young River Plate skipper now contracted to Parma (5)
16 .....Barca's new midfield general recruited from Sporting Lisbon (4)



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OCTOBER

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GROUP 1

04.09.94	Israel v Poland	2-1
07.09.94	Slovakia v France	0-0
07.09.94	Romania v Azerbaijan	3-0
08.10.94	France v Romania	0-0
12.10.94	Israel v Slovakia	2-2
12.10.94	Poland v Azerbaijan	1-0
12.11.94	Romania v Slovakia	3-2
16.11.94	Poland v France	0-0
16.11.94	Azerbaijan v Israel	0-2
13.12.94	Azerbaijan v France	0-2
14.12.94	Israel v Romania	1-1
29.03.95	Romania v Poland	2-1
29.03.95	Israel v France	0-0
29.03.95	Slovakia v Azerbaijan	4-1
25.04.95	Poland v Israel	4-3
26.04.95	France v Slovakia	4-0
26.04.95	Azerbaijan v Romania	1-4
07.06.95	Poland v Slovakia	5-0
07.06.95	Romania v Israel	2-1
16.08.95	France v Poland	1-1
16.08.95	Azerbaijan v Slovakia	0-1
06.09.95	France v Azerbaijan	
06.09.95	Slovakia v Israel	
06.09.95	Poland v Romania	
11.10.95	Romania v France	
11.10.95	Israel v Azerbaijan	
11.10.95	Slovakia v Poland	
15.11.95	Slovakia v Romania	
15.11.95	Azerbaijan v Poland	
15.11.95	France v Israel	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	7	5	2	0	15	5	17
France	7	2	5	0	7	1	11
Poland	7	3	2	2	13	8	11
Israel	7	2	3	2	11	10	9
Slovakia	7	2	2	3	9	15	8
Azerbaijan	7	0	0	7	2	17	0

GROUP 2

07.09.94	Cyprus v Spain	1-2
07.09.94	Macedonia v Denmark	1-1
07.09.94	Belgium v Armenia	2-0
08.10.94	Armenia v Cyprus	0-0
12.10.94	Denmark v Belgium	3-1
12.10.94	Macedonia v Spain	0-2
16.11.94	Belgium v Macedonia	1-1
16.11.94	Spain v Denmark	3-0
16.11.94	Cyprus v Armenia	2-0
17.12.94	Belgium v Spain	1-4
17.12.94	Macedonia v Cyprus	3-0
29.03.95	Spain v Belgium	1-1
29.03.95	Cyprus v Denmark	1-1
26.04.95	Armenia v Spain	0-2
26.04.95	Belgium v Cyprus	2-0
26.04.95	Denmark v Macedonia	1-0
10.05.95	Armenia v Macedonia	2-2
07.06.95	Denmark v Cyprus	4-0
07.06.95	Macedonia v Belgium	0-5
07.06.95	Spain v Armenia	1-0
16.08.95	Armenia v Denmark	0-2
06.09.95	Belgium v Denmark	
06.09.95	Spain v Cyprus	
06.09.95	Macedonia v Armenia	
07.10.95	Armenia v Belgium	
11.10.95	Denmark v Spain	
11.10.95	Cyprus v Macedonia	
15.11.95	Spain v Macedonia	
15.11.95	Cyprus v Belgium	
15.11.95	Denmark v Armenia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	7	6	1	0	15	3	19
Denmark	7	4	2	1	12	6	14
Belgium	7	3	2	2	13	9	11
Cyprus	7	1	2	4	4	12	5
Macedonia	7	1	3	3	7	12	6
Armenia	7	0	2	5	2	11	2

GROUP 3

07.09.94	Iceland v Sweden	0-1
07.09.94	Hungary v Turkey	2-2
12.10.94	Turkey v Iceland	5-0
12.10.94	Switzerland v Sweden	4-2
16.11.94	Switzerland v Iceland	1-0
16.11.94	Sweden v Hungary	2-0
14.12.94	Turkey v Switzerland	1-2
29.03.95	Turkey v Sweden	2-1
29.03.95	Hungary v Switzerland	2-2
26.04.95	Hungary v Sweden	1-0
26.04.95	Switzerland v Turkey	1-2
01.06.95	Sweden v Iceland	1-1
11.06.95	Iceland v Hungary	2-1
16.08.95	Iceland v Switzerland	0-2
06.09.95	Sweden v Switzerland	
06.09.95	Turkey v Hungary	
11.10.95	Switzerland v Hungary	
11.10.95	Iceland v Turkey	
11.11.95	Hungary v Iceland	
15.11.95	Sweden v Turkey	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	6	4	1	1	12	7	13
Turkey	5	3	1	1	12	6	10
Sweden	6	2	1	3	7	8	7
Hungary	5	1	2	2	6	8	5
Iceland	6	1	1	4	3	11	4

GROUP 4

04.09.94	Estonia v Croatia	0-2
07.09.94	Slovenia v Italy	1-1
07.09.94	Ukraine v Lithuania	0-2
08.10.94	Estonia v Italy	0-2
09.10.94	Croatia v Lithuania	2-0
12.10.94	Ukraine v Slovenia	0-0
13.11.94	Ukraine v Estonia	3-0
16.11.94	Slovenia v Lithuania	1-2
16.11.94	Italy v Croatia	1-2
25.03.95	Italy v Estonia	4-1
25.03.95	Croatia v Ukraine	4-0
29.03.95	Slovenia v Estonia	3-0
29.03.95	Ukraine v Italy	0-2
29.03.95	Lithuania v Croatia	0-0
26.04.95	Lithuania v Italy	0-1
26.04.95	Croatia v Slovenia	2-0
26.04.95	Estonia v Ukraine	0-1
07.06.95	Lithuania v Slovenia	2-1
11.06.95	Estonia v Slovenia	1-3
11.06.95	Ukraine v Croatia	1-0
16.08.95	Estonia v Lithuania	0-1
03.09.95	Croatia v Estonia	
06.09.95	Italy v Slovenia	
06.09.95	Lithuania v Ukraine	
08.10.95	Croatia v Italy	
11.10.95	Slovenia v Ukraine	
11.10.95	Lithuania v Estonia	
11.11.95	Italy v Ukraine	
15.11.95	Slovenia v Croatia	
15.11.95	Italy v Lithuania	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	7	5	1	1	12	2	16
Italy	6	4	1	1	11	4	13
Lithuania	7	4	1	2	7	5	13
Ukraine	7	3	1	3	5	8	10
Slovenia	7	2	2	3	9	8	8
Estonia	8	0	0	8	2	19	0

GROUP 5

06.09.94	Czech Rep v Malta	6-1
07.09.94	Luxembourg v Holland	0-4
07.09.94	Norway v Byelorussia	1-0
12.10.94	Malta v Czech Rep	0-0
12.10.94	Byelorussia v Lux'bourg	2-0
12.10.94	Norway v Holland	1-1
16.11.94	Byelorussia v Norway	0-4
16.11.94	Holland v Czech Rep	0-0
14.12.94	Malta v Norway	0-1
14.12.94	Holland v Luxembourg	5-0
22.02.95	Malta v Luxembourg	0-1
29.03.95	Czech Rep v Byelorussia	4-2
29.03.95	Luxembourg v Norway	0-2
29.03.95	Holland v Malta	4-0
26.04.95	Byelorussia v Malta	1-1
26.04.95	Czech Rep v Holland	3-1
26.04.95	Norway v Luxembourg	5-0
07.06.95	Byelorussia v Holland	1-0
07.06.95	Lux'bourg v Czech Rep	1-0
07.06.95	Norway v Malta	2-0
16.08.95	Norway v Czech Rep	1-1
06.09.95	Czech Rep v Norway	
06.09.95	Luxembourg v Malta	
06.09.95	Holland v Byelorussia	
07.10.95	Byelorussia v Czech Rep	
11.10.95	Malta v Holland	
11.10.95	Luxembourg v Byelorussia	
12.11.95	Malta v Byelorussia	
15.11.95	Czech Rep v Luxembourg	
15.11.95	Holland v Norway	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	8	6	2	0	17	2	20
Czech Rep	7	3	3	1	14	6	12
Holland	7	3	2	2	15	5	11
Byelorussia	6	2	1	3	6	10	7
Luxembourg	7	2	0	5	2	18	6
Malta	7	0	2	5	2	15	2

GROUP 6

20.04.94	N. Ireland v Liecht'stein	4-1
07.09.94	Liechtenstein v Austria	0-4
07.09.94	N. Ireland v Portugal	1-2
07.09.94	Latvia v Rep. Ireland	0-3
09.10.94	Latvia v Portugal	1-3
12.10.94	Austria v N. Ireland	1-2
12.10.94	Rep Ireland v Lcht'stein	4-0
13.11.94	Portugal v Austria	1-0
15.11.94	Liechtenstein v Latvia	0-1
16.11.94	N. Ireland v Rep. Ireland	0-4
18.12.94	Portugal v Liechtenstein	8-0
29.03.95	Rep. Ireland v N. Ireland	1-1
29.03.95	Austria v Latvia	5-0
26.04.95	Rep. Ireland v Portugal	1-0
26.04.95	Latvia v N. Ireland	0-1
26.04.95	Austria v Liechtenstein	7-0
03.06.95	Portugal v Latvia	3-2
03.06.95	Lcht'stein v Rep. Ireland	0-0
07.06.95	N. Ireland v Latvia	1-2
11.06.95	Rep. Ireland v Austria	1-3
15.08.95	Liechtenstein v Portugal	0-7
16.08.95	Latvia v Austria	3-2
03.09.95	Portugal v N. Ireland	
06.09.95	Austria v Rep. Ireland	
06.09.95	Latvia v Liechtenstein	
11.10.95	Rep. Ireland v Latvia	
11.10.95	Austria v Portugal	
11.10.95	Liechtenstein v N. Ireland	
15.11.95	Portugal v Rep. Ireland	
15.11.95	N. Ireland v Austria	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	7	6	0	1	23	5	18
Rep. Ireland	7	4	2	1	14	4	14
Austria	7	4	0	3	22	7	12
North Ireland	7	3	1	3	10	11	10
Latvia	8	3	0	5	9	18	9
Liechtenstein	8	0	1	7	1	35	1

GROUP 7

07.09.94	Wales v Albania	2-0
07.09.94	Georgia v Moldova	0-1
12.10.94	Moldova v Wales	3-2
12.10.94	Bulgaria v Georgia	2-0
16.11.94	Albania v Germany	1-2
16.11.94	Georgia v Wales	5-0
16.11.94	Bulgaria v Moldova	4-1
14.12.94	Wales v Bulgaria	0-3
14.12.94	Moldova v Germany	0-3
14.12.94	Albania v Georgia	0-1
18.12.94	Germany v Albania	2-1
29.03.95	Georgia v Germany	0-2
29.03.95	Bulgaria v Wales	3-1
29.03.95	Albania v Moldova	3-0
26.04.95	Germany v Wales	1-1
26.04.95	Moldova v Bulgaria	0-3
26.04.95	Georgia v Albania	2-0
07.06.95	Bulgaria v Germany	3-2
07.06.95	Wales v Georgia	0-1
07.06.95	Moldova v Albania	2-3
06.09.95	Germany v Georgia	
06.09.95	Wales v Moldova	
06.09.95	Albania v Bulgaria	
07.10.95	Bulgaria v Albania	
08.10.95	Germany v Moldova	
11.10.95	Wales v Germany	
11.10.95	Georgia v Bulgaria	
15.11.95	Germany v Bulgaria	
15.11.95	Albania v Wales	
15.11.95	Moldova v Georgia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	6	6	0	0	18	4	18
Germany	6	4	1	1	12	6	13
Georgia	7	4	0	3	9	5	12
Albania	7	2	0	5	8	11	6
Moldova	7	2	0	5	7	18	6
Wales	7	1	1	5	6	16	4

GROUP 8

07.09.94	Finland v Scotland	0-2
07.09.94	Faroe Islands v Greece	1-5
12.10.94	Scotland v Faroes	5-1
12.10.94	Greece v Finland	4-0
12.10.94	Russia v San Marino	4-0
16.11.94	Scotland v Russia	1-1
16.11.94	Greece v San Marino	2-0
16.11.94	Finland v Faroe Islands	5-0
14.12.94	Finland v San Marino	4-1
18.12.94	Greece v Scotland	1-0
29.03.94	Russia v Scotland	0-0
29.03.95	San Marino v Finland	0-2
26.04.95	San Marino v Scotland	0-2
26.04.95	Greece v Russia	0-3
26.04.95	Faroe Islands v Finland	0-4
06.05.95	Russia v Faroe Islands	3-0
25.05.95	Faroes v San Marino	3-0
07.06.95	Faroe s v Scotland	0-2
07.06.95	San Marino v Russia	0-7
11.06.95	Finland v Greece	2-1
16.08.95	Scotland v Greece	1-0
16.08.95	Finland v Russia	0-6
06.09.95	Scotland v Finland	
06.09.95	Faroe Islands v Russia	
06.09.95	San Marino v Greece	
11.10.95	Russia v Greece	
11.10.95	San Marino v Faroes	
15.11.95	Scotland v San Marino	
15.11.95	Russia v Finland	
15.11.95	Greece v Faroe Islands	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	7	5	2	0	24	1	17
Scotland	8	5	2	1	13	3	17
Finland	8	5	0	3	17	14	15
Greece	7	4	0	3	13	7	12
Faroes	7	1	0	6	5	24	3
San Marino	7	0	0	7	1	25	0

The European Championship Finals run from Saturday June 8, 1995, to Sunday June 30, at eight venues, with the competing nations split into four groups of four.

Group A: Wembley (London) and Villa Park (Birmingham).

Group B: Elland Road (Leeds) and St James' Park (Newcastle).

Group C: Old Trafford (Manchester) and Anfield (Liverpool).

Group D: Hillsborough (Sheffield) and City Ground (Nottingham).

FIRST ROUND

08.06.96	A1 v A2	Wembley 3.00
09.06.96	B1 v B2	Leeds 2.30
09.06.96	C1 v C2	Manchester 5.00
09.06.96	D1 v D2	Sheffield 7.30
10.06.96	A3 v A4	Birmingham 4.30
10.06.96	B3 v B4	Newcastle 7.30
11.06.96	C3 v C4	Liverpool 4.30
11.06.96	D3 v D4	Nottingham 7.30
13.06.96	A2 v A3	Birmingham 7.30
13.06.96	B2 v B3	Newcastle 4.30
14.06.96	C2 v C3	Liverpool 7.30
14.06.96	D2 v D3	Nottingham 4.30
15.06.96	A4 v A1	Wembley 3.00
15.06.96	B4 v B1	Leeds 6.00
16.06.96	C4 v C1	Manchester 3.00
16.06.96	D4 v D1	Sheffield 6.00
18.06.96	A4 v A2	Birmingham 7.30
18.06.96	B4 v B2	Newcastle 4.30
18.06.96	A3 v A1	Wembley 7.30
18.06.96	B3 v B1	Leeds 4.30
19.06.96	C4 v C2	Liverpool 7.30
19.06.96	D4 v D2	Nottingham 4.30
19.06.96	C3 v C1	Manchester 7.30
19.06.96	D3 v D1	Sheffield 4.30

QUARTER-FINALS

22.06.96	1B v 2A	Liverpool 6.30
22.06.96	2B v 1A	Wembley 3.00
23.06.96	1C v 2D	Manchester 3.00
23.06.96	2C v 1D	Birmingham 6.30

SEMI-FINALS

26.06.96	QF1 v QF4	Manchester 4.00
26.06.96	QF2 v QF3	Wembley 7.30

FINAL

30.06.96	SF1 v SF2	Wembley 7.00

RESULTS

Van Ankeren hat-trick as Aalst beat Anderlecht . . . Paris SG on top . .

AUSTRIA

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

MIDWEEK

SALZBURG 1 LINZ 1
SV RIED 2 RAPID WIEN 1
AUSTRIA WIEN 4 VORWARTS 0
ADMIRA 1 STURM GRAZ 5

WEEKEND

INNSBRUCK 3 ADMIRA 0
LINZER 1 SV RIED 1
RAPID WIEN 1 AUSTRIA WIEN 0
VORWARTS 1 GRAZER AK 2
STURM GRAZ 0 SALZBURG 2

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

WEEKEND

ADMIRA 1 SALZBURG 2
AUSTRIA WIEN 0 LINZER 1
GRAZER AK 1 RAPID WIEN 2
SV RIED 2 STURM GRAZ 4
INNSBRUCK 5 VORWARTS 1

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

WEEKEND

SALZBURG 1 SV RIED 1
LINZER 0 GRAZER AK 0
RAPID WIEN 2 AUSTRIA WIEN 0
VORWARTS 0 ADMIRA 1

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

WEEKEND

GRAZER AK 3 STURM GRAZ 2
INNSBRUCK 2 LINZER 1
AUSTRIA WIEN 3 SALZBURG 0
VORWARTS 0 RAPID WIEN 2
ADMIRA WACKER 3 SV RIED 2

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rapid Wien	5	4	0	1	9	4	12
FC Tirol	4	3	0	1	11	5	9
Sturm Graz	5	3	0	2	13	8	9
Salzburg	5	2	2	1	6	6	8
Grazer AK	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Austria Wien	5	2	0	3	7	4	6
Linzer ASK	5	1	3	1	4	4	6
Admira Wacker	5	2	0	3	6	12	6
SV Ried	5	1	2	2	8	10	5
Vorwarts Steyr	5	0	0	5	2	14	0

BELGIUM

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

WEEKEND

ST TRUIDEN 4 (Van Woudt 23, Van Marsenille 44, 65, 82)
SERAING 1 (Edmilson 52). **Att:** 9,000.

STANDARD 1 (Wilmots 67)
LOMMEL 0. **Att:** 17,000.

CERCLE BRUGES 3 (Lauwers 48, 55, Shehu 87)
ANTWERP 2 (Severeyns 3, 30). Att: 2,500.

LIERSE 0
HARELBEKE 1 (Ngonge 52). Att: 7,000.

RWDM 1 (Wuyts 70)
BEVEREN 0. **Att:** 3,000.

AALST 3 (Van Ankeren 30, 50, 61)
ANDERLECHT 1 (Boffin 31). Att: 9,000.

CHARLEROI 4 (Van Meir 2, Mommens 62, Misse-Misse 65, Krncevic 75)
MECHELEN 2 (Silvani 82 og, Martens 88). **Att:** 12,000.

EKEREN 1 (Van de Walle 75)
CLUB BRUGGE 2 (Staelens 30, Borkelmans 60). **Att:** 6,000.

WAREGEM 2 (Oulare 60, 90)
GENT 2 (Martens 15, Dauwen 59). **Att:** 7,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

WEEKEND

CLUB BRUGGE 2 (Eijkelamp 2, Claessens 55)
ST TRUIDEN 0. **Att:** 15,000.

GENT 2 (Calo 75, 85)
STANDARD 4 (Goossens 61, Foguenne 65, Wilmots 79, De Conde 89). **Att:** 12,000.

SERAING 0
WAREGEM 2 (Claeys 76, Bossuyt 90). **Att:** 1,500.

MECHELEN 1 (Vanaken 89)
EKEREN 1 (Radzinski 45). **Att:** 6,200.

ANDERLECHT 0
CHARLEROI 2 (Gerard pen 27, Krncevic 73). **Att:** 18,000.

BEVEREN 0
AALST 2 (Temmerman 32, Van Ankeren 46). **Att:** 7,000.

ANTWERP 3 (Rubenilson pen 3, pen 60, Severeyns 42)
LIERSE 1 (Rekdal 36). **Att:** 7,000.

LOMMEL 0
CERCLE BRUGES 1 (Lauwers 42). **Att:** 5,500.

HARELBEKE 4 (Ngonge 5, Couvreur 38,80, Akwuegbu 83)
RWDM 2 (Wuyts 55, Pierre 68). **Att:** 4,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

MIDWEEK

WAREGEM 0
STANDARD 4 (Foguenne 11, Wilmots 18, 46, 52). **Att:** 9,000.

CERCLE BRUGES 0
GENT 0. **Att:** 4,000.

CHARLEROI 3 (Van Meir 26, Remy 30, Rasquin 82)
BEVEREN 1 (Goots 73). **Att:** 9,000.

AALST 2 (Meyssen 3, 40)
HARELBEKE 0. **Att:** 8,000.

LIERSE 3 (Serneels 33, Huysmans 36, Rekdal 87)
LOMMEL 1 (Van Geneugden pen 65). **Att:** 6,000.

RWDM 0
ANTWERP 0. **Att:**4,000.

SERAING 1 (Edmilson 51)
CLUB BRUGGE 1 (Claessens 5). **Att:** 3,500.

ST TRUIDEN 2 (Nielsen 67, 71)
MECHELEN 2 (Leen 29, 36). **Att:** 7,000.

WEEKEND

GENT 0
LIERSE 2 (Rekdal 53, Snoeckx 79). **Att:** 7,000.

ANDERLECHT 4 (Grun 25, Boffin 55, Preko 70, De Bilde pen 72)
ST TRUIDEN 0. **Att:** 18,000.

ANTWERP 0
AALST 1 (Meyssen 65). **Att:** 6,000.

BEVEREN 3 (Van Overtveld 36, Goots 45, Udovic 74)
EKEREN 2 (Vande Walle pen 6, Lukaku 61). **Att:** 4,000.

LOMMEL 0
RWDM 1 (Sabbadini 65). **Att:** 5,000.

MECHELEN 1 (Martens 18)
SERAING 4 (Edmilson 20, 53, Teppers 80, Wamberto 89). **Att:** 3,000.

STANDARD 4 (Bettagno 7, Schepens 55, Goosens 79, Foguenne 86)
CERCLE BRUGES 0 **Att:** 13,500.

CLUB BRUGGE 3 (Spehar 42, 66, Stanic 45)
WAREGEM 1 (Vanderbeken 68). **Att:** 14,000.

HARELBEKE 4 (De Tollenaere 15, 22, Ngonge pen 31, Couvreur 53)
CHARLEROI 0. **Att:** 4,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

WEEKEND

ST TRUIDEN 0
BEVEREN 2 (Goots 31, 84). **Att:** 7,000.

SERAING 2 (Wamberto 28, Micheli 51)
ANDERLECHT 1 (Walem 81). **Att:** 9,000.

LIERSE 0
STANDARD 0. **Att:** 8,000.

RWDM 1 (Haydock 89)
GENT 0. **Att:** 4,000.

AALST 4 (Van Riel 3, Van Ankeren, 19, Paas 57, Lambert 84)
LOMMEL 1 (Waligora 89). **Att:** 7,500.

CHARLEROI 2 (Misse-Misse 11, Beugno 60)
ANTWERP 0. **Att:** 9,500.

EKEREN 1 (Radblinski 46)
HARELBEKE 1 (Couvreur 56). **Att:** 3,700.

CLUB BRUGGE 6 (Spehar 8, Stanic 30, 44, 56, 60, 78)
MECHELEN 0. **Att:** 14,000.

WAREGEM 1 (Palomino 48)
CERCLE BRUGES 1 (Launders 78). **Att:** 4,700.

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aalst	6	5	0	1	13	5	15
Standard Liege	6	4	2	0	14	3	14
Club Brugge	6	4	1	1	15	5	13
Harelbeke	6	4	1	1	13	5	13
Charleroi	6	4	1	1	12	8	13
RWDM	6	3	2	1	6	5	11
Lierse	6	3	1	2	9	7	10
Beveren	6	3	0	3	6	8	9
Cercle Bruges	6	2	2	2	7	10	8
Seraing	6	2	1	3	8	10	7
Anderlecht	5	2	0	3	8	8	6
Gent	6	1	2	3	7	10	5
Waregem	6	1	2	3	6	13	5
Mechelen	6	1	2	3	9	17	5
Antwerp	5	1	1	3	5	7	4
St Truiden	6	1	1	4	6	13	4
Ekeren	4	0	2	2	5	7	2
Lommel	6	0	1	5	3	11	1

ENGLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

WEEKEND

ASTON VILLA 3 (Taylor 14, Draper 27, Yorke pen 37)
MAN UTD 1 (Beckham 84). **Att:** 34,655.

BLACKBURN 1 (Shearer pen 5)
QPR 0. **Att:** 22,860.

CHELSEA 0
EVERTON 0. **Att:** 30,189.

LIVERPOOL 1 (Collymore 61)
SHEFFIELD WED 0. **Att:** 40,535.

MAN CITY 1 (Rosler 51)
TOTTENHAM 1 (Sheringham 33). **Att:** 30,827.

NEWCASTLE UTD 3 (Lee 7, Beardsley pen 82, Ferdinand 83)
COVENTRY 0. **Att:** 36,485.

SOUTHAMPTON 3 (Le Tissier pen 10, 69 pen, 81)
NOTTM FOREST 4 (Cooper 8, Woan 36, Roy 42, 79). **Att:** 15,164.

WEST HAM 1 (Williamson 5)
LEEDS 2 (Yeboah 48, 57). **Att:** 22,901.

WIMBLEDON 3 (Ekoku 5, Earle 25, Holdsworth 55)
BOLTON 2 (Thompson pen 27, De Freitas 40). **Att:** 9,317.

ARSENAL 1 (Wright 36)
MIDDLESBROUGH 1 (Barmby 32). **Att:** 37,308.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

MIDWEEK

BOLTON 1 (Bergsson 51)
NEWCASTLE 3 (Ferdinand 17, 64, R. Lee 77). **Att:** 20,243.

LEEDS 1 (Yeboah 51)
LIVERPOOL 0. **Att:** 35,852.

WIMBLEDON 3 (Leonhardsen 29, Holdsworth 56, Goodman 83)
QPR 0. **Att:** 11,637.

MAN UTD 2 (Scholes 50, Keane 67)
WEST HAM 1 (Bruce 56 og). **Att:** 31,966.

TOTTENHAM 0
ASTON VILLA 1 (Ehiogu 69). **Att:** 26,726.

EVERTON 0
ARSENAL 2 (Platt 70, Wright 87). **Att:** 35,775.

NOTTM FOREST 0
CHELSEA 0. **Att:** 27,007.

COVENTRY 2 (Telfer 12, Dublin 86)
MAN CITY 1 (Rosler 82). **Att:** 15,957.

SHEFFIELD WED 2 (Waddle 18, Pembridge 83)
BLACKBURN 1 (Shearer 60). **Att:** 25,544.

WEEKEND

SHEFFIELD WED 0
NEWCASTLE 2 (Ginola 53, Beardsley 75). **Att:** 24,815.

LEEDS 2 (Speed 3, D. White)
ASTON VILLA 0. **Att:** 35,086.

TOTTENHAM 1 (Calderwood 88)
LIVERPOOL 3 (Barnes 8, 43, Fowler 55). **Att:** 31,254.

MAN UTD 3 (Keane 27, 80, Cole 60)
WIMBLEDON 1 (Earle 65). **Att:** 32,226.

COVENTRY 0
ARSENAL 0. **Att:** 20,065.

NOTTM FOREST 1 (Pearce 35 pen)
WEST HAM 1 (M. Allen 14). **Att:** 26,645.

MIDDLESBROUGH 2 (Hignett 39, Fjortoft 74)
CHELSEA 0. **Att:** 28,286.

EVERTON 2 (Limpar 35, Amokachi 43)
SOUTHAMPTON 0. **Att:** 33,668.

BOLTON 2 (De Freitas 21, Stubbs 80)
BLACKBURN 1 (Holmes 61). **Att:** 20,253.

QPR 1 (Barker 31)
MAN CITY 0. **Att:** 14,212.

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	4	4	0	0	9	1	12
Leeds	4	3	1	0	6	2	10
Liverpool	4	3	0	1	5	2	9
Man United	4	3	0	1	8	6	9
Aston Villa	4	3	0	1	5	3	9
Wimbledon	4	2	1	1	9	7	7
Everton	4	2	1	1	4	2	7
Arsenal	4	1	3	0	4	2	6
Nottm Forest	4	1	3	0	6	5	6
Coventry	4	1	2	1	4	6	5
Middlesbrough	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Sheffield Wed	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
Blackburn	4	1	0	3	4	6	3
Chelsea	4	0	3	1	2	4	3
Bolton	4	1	0	3	5	8	3
QPR	4	1	0	3	1	5	3
West Ham	4	0	2	2	4	6	2
Tottenham	4	0	2	2	3	6	2
Southampton	3	0	1	2	4	7	1
Manchester City	4	0	1	3	2	6	1

FRANCE

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

WEEKEND

BASTIA 2 (Rodriguez 12, 70)
BORDEAUX 0. **Att:** 8,000.

MONACO 2 (Ikpeba 11, Thuram 38)
AUXERRE 2 (Guivarch'h 52, Saib 85). **Att:** 8,000.

CANNES 1 (Micoud 63)
METZ 2 (Pires 59, 79). **Att:** 6,000.

NANTES 1 (N'Doram 7)
PARIS SG 2 (Rai 21, Nouma 83). **Att:** 32,410.

LENS 0
STRASBOURG 0. **Att:** 26,151.

GUINGAMP 0
NICE 0. **Att:** 9,000.

MONTPELLIER 3 (Villareal 44, Der Zakarian 47, V. Petit 76)
RENNES 1 (Wiltord 21). **Att:** 11,232.

LE HAVRE 2 (Daury 22, Caveglia 41)
LYON 1 (Fichaux og). **Att:** 9,219.

ST ETIENNE 1 (Moravcik 23 pen)
LILLE 1 (Sibierski 81). **Att:** 12,545.

GUEUGNON 0
MARTIGUES 0. **Att:** 4,743.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

WEEKEND

AUXERRE 0
LENS 1 (Laigle 78). **Att:** 15,000.

BASTIA 2 (Drobnjak 53, Faye 77)
MONACO 1 (Anderson da Silva 61). **Att:** 8,000.

LILLE 0
GUINGAMP 3 (Rouxel pen 53, Dallet 76, Carnot 85). **Att:** 8,000.

MARTIGUES 2 (Sylla 25, 89)
CANNES 1 (Kozniku 48). **Att:** 4,700.

METZ 1 (Isaias 11)
MONTPELLIER 0. **Att:** 12,310.

NICE 3 (Collet 14, Ipoua 89 pen, Debbah 90)
GUEUGNON 1 (Garcia 39). **Att:** 5,775.

PARIS SG 4 (Djorkaeff 30, 77, Dely Valdes 31, Rai 71)
ST ETIENNE 0. **Att:** 32,389.

RENNES 1 (Grassi pen 2)
LE HAVRE 0. **Att:** 12,196.

BORDEAUX v NANTES – *postponed*

LYON v STRASBOURG – *postponed*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

WEEKEND

NANTES 1 (N'Doram pen 89)
NICE 0. **Att:** 20,000.

GUEUGNON 1 (Fanzel 90)
PARIS SG 3 (Dely Valdes 4, Rai 67, Gravelaine 87). **Att:** 10,220.

GUINGAMP 1 (Rouxel 38)
BORDEAUX 0. **Att:** 13,990.

LE HAVRE 0
METZ 0. **Att:** 9,754.

MONACO 0
MARTIGUES 1 (Sow 78). **Att:** 9,000.

MONTPELLIER 3 (Der Zakarian 7, 31, Sanchez 42)
AUXERRE 1 (Laslandes pen 81). **Att:** 13,735.

ST ETIENNE 3 (Thimothee 38, Moravcik 56, Sandjak 69)
BASTIA 0. **Att:** 12,598.

STRASBOURG 3 (Keller 20, 44, Mostovoi 51)
RENNES 1 (Wiltord 69). **Att:** 15,348.

LENS 2 (Tiehi 28, Camara 60)
LYON 2 (Maurice 9, 90 pen). **Att:** 23,646.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

WEEKEND

PARIS SG 2 (Dely Valdes 29, Djorkaeff 90)
LE HAVRE 0. **Att:** 31,315.

METZ 3 (Pouget 16, Isaias 45, Kastendeuch 47 pen)
STRASBOURG 2 (Keller 26, 73). **Att:** 19,988.

ST ETIENNE 4 (Sandjak 13, Thimothee 30, 48, Sechet 81)
GUINGAMP 0. **Att:** 17,792.

LILLE 0
NANTES 0. **Att:** 7,500.

BORDEAUX 2 (Bancarel 63, Tholot 75)
MONACO 4 (Thuram 4, Wreh 13, 44, Benarbia 32). **Att:** 20,000.

MARTIGUES 0
MONTPELLIER 1 (Villareal 63). **Att:** 4,500.

BASTIA 1 (Rodriguez 84)
GUEUGNON 2 (Ciechelski 65, Trivino 78). **Att:** 7,000.

NICE 1 (Nagbe 89)
LENS 1 (Meyrieu 88). **Att:** 6,734.

RENNES 1 (Grassi 30)
LYON 0. **Att:** 11,107.

AUXERRE 5 (Saib 5, Laslandes 55, 78, Cocard 82, C. Martins 90)
CANNES 1 (P. Marquet 66). **Att:** 9,000.

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paris SG	7	5	2	0	16	5	17
Metz	7	4	3	0	9	4	15
Monaco	7	4	1	2	14	10	13
Lens	7	3	3	1	7	5	12
Strasbourg	6	3	2	1	12	6	11
Nantes	6	3	2	1	9	3	11
Guingamp	6	3	2	1	7	5	11
Auxerre	7	3	1	3	16	8	10
Montpellier	7	3	1	3	11	9	10
Bastia	7	3	1	2	9	8	10
Nice	7	2	3	2	7	6	9
St Etienne	7	2	3	2	10	10	9
Rennes	7	3	0	4	8	12	9
Bordeaux	6	2	1	3	7	9	7
Martigues	7	2	1	4	3	10	7
Cannes	7	2	0	5	10	15	6
Gueugnon	7	1	3	3	6	13	6
Lyon	6	1	2	3	7	11	5
Le Havre	7	1	1	5	2	14	4
Lille	7	0	2	5	3	11	2

GERMANY

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

WEEKEND

DORTMUND 1 (Herrlich 72)
KAISERSLAUTERN 1 (M. Wagner 73). **Att:** 42,300.

STUTTGART 0
KFC UERDINGEN 0. **Att:** 30,000.

WERDER BREMEN 1 (Hobsch 22)
FORTUNA 1 (Cyron 2). **Att:** 28,000.

BAYERN MUNICH 3 (A. Herzog 31, Helmer 50, Scholl 69)
HAMBURG 2 (Sporl 2, Fischer 74). **Att:** 63,000.

EINTRACHT 2 (Rauffmann 43, Binz 71)
KARLSRUHE 2 (D Schuster 8, Knup 47). **Att:** 25,000.

HANSA ROSTOCK 1 (Baumgart 24)
LEVERKUSEN 2 (B. Schuster 17, Feldhoff 87). **Att:** 25,800.

KOLN 0
SCHALKE 1 (Mulder 75). **Att:** 45,000.

ST PAULI 4 (Propper 40, Scharping pen 49, Dammann 55, Savitschev 90)
1860 MUNICH 2 (Borimirov 38, 84). **Att:** 20,725.

BORUSSIA MG 1 (Pflipsen 74)
SC FREIBURG 0. **Att:** 31,600.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

WEEKEND

SC FREIBURG 0
ST PAULI 2 (Sobotzik 58, Scharpling

RESULTS

Bayern hit Karlsruhe for six . . . FC Porto beat Sporting on opening c

87). **Att:** 22,500.

HAMBURG 3 (Breitenreiter 15, 25, Sporl 51)
WERDER BREMEN 3 (Hobsch 31, 79, Basler 61). **Att:** 32,247.

SCHALKE 1 (Max 80)
HANSA 3 (Milde 7, Baumgart 60, Klee 72). **Att:** 40,375.

LEVERKUSEN 1 (Voller 57)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 1 (Moller 64 pen). **Att:** 26,000.

KAISERSLAUTERN 1 (Kadlec 90)
BORUSSIA MG 3 (Dahlin 10, Sternkopf 69, Wynhoff 76). **Att:** 36,900.

KARLSRUHE 2 (Knup 35, 79)
BAYERN MUNICH 6 (Ziege 14, Kreuzer 17, Zickler 23, 72, D. Hamann 57, Scholl pen 68). **Att:** 33,800.

1860 MUNICH 1 (Borimirov 5)
STUTTGART 1 (Balakov pen 51). **Att:** 43,000.

KFC UERDINGEN 1 (Peschke 60)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 1 (Komljenivoc 24). **Att:** 11,412.

FORTUNA 1 (Mill 30)
KOLN 1 (Janssen 61). **Att:** 45,000.

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	3	3	0	0	11	4	9
Borussia MG	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
St Pauli	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Hansa Rostock	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Ein. Frankfurt	3	1	2	0	7	5	5
VfB Stuttgart	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Werder Bremen	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Leverkusen	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Koln	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Kaiserslautern	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Schalke	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Fortuna Dusseldorf	3	0	3	0	3	3	3
Bor. Dortmund	3	0	2	1	4	5	2
KFC Uerdingen	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
Hamburg	3	0	1	2	7	9	1
1860 Munich	3	0	1	2	5	9	1
Karlsruhe	3	0	1	2	4	9	1
SC Freiburg	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

HOLLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

WEEKEND

FORTUNA SITTARD 1 (Hamming 41)
PSV 3 (Hoekstra 31, Nilis 56, Cocu 60). **Att:** 11,000.

GA EAGLES 2 (Bombarda 32, Sikora 89)
GRONINGEN 2 (Schenning 52, Bombarda 56). **Att:** 6,750.

RODA JC KERKRADE 2 (Roelofsen 73, De Kock 89)
HEERENVEEN 2 (Wouden 22, 67). **Att:** 11,000

WILLEM 6 (Van Gastel 23, Van der Vegt 30, 72, Stewart 32, De Bruin 40, De Gier 89)
SPARTA 0. **Att:** 6,500.

AJAX 4 (Davids 49, Kluivert 59, Blind 62, Reuser 73)
UTRECHT 0. **Att:** 19,600.

FEYENOORD 5 (Trustfull 22, 65, Blinder 45, Larsson 61, Blinker 67)
VITESSE 2 (Gorter 51, Atteveld pen 79). **Att:** 35,214.

DE GRAAFSCHAP 2 (Godee 69, Fuchs 89)
NEC 3 (Sumiala 27, Koolstra 31, Koning 73). **Att:** 6,900.

RKC 2 (Vidmar 3, Petrovic 33)
NAC 2 (Arnole 4, Brusselers 28). **Att:** 5,700.

VOLENDAM 1 (Samardzic 88)
TWENTE 3 (Boerebach 28, Bruggink 34, 75). **Att:** 3,500.

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Heerenveen	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
Ajax	2	2	0	0	10	0	6
Willem II Tilburg	2	2	0	0	8	0	6
Feyenoord	2	1	1	0	7	4	4
NAC Breda	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
FC Twente	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Groningen	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
PSV Eindhoven	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Sparta Rotterdam	2	1	0	1	4	7	3
NEC Nijmegen	2	1	0	1	3	8	3
Roda JC	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
RKC Waalwijk	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Volendam	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
GA Eagles	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Vitesse Arnhem	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
Utrecht	2	0	1	1	2	6	1
De Graafschap	2	0	0	2	3	7	0
Fortuna Sittard	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

ITALY

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

WEEKEND

LAZIO 4 (Signori 32, Esposito 47, 74, Casiraghi 79 pen)
PIACENZA 1 (Caccia 82 pen). **Att:** 44,000.

JUVENTUS 4 (Jugovic 17, Ravanelli 65, 71 pen, A. Tentoni 88 og)
CREMONESE 1 (Maspero 50). **Att:** 43,000.

FIORENTINA 2 (Banchelli 56, 59)
TORINO 0. **Att:** 39,000.

PADOVA 1 (N. Amoruso 34)
MILAN 2 (Weah 6, Baresi 44). **Att:** 26,000.

INTER 1 (Roberto Carlos 52)
VICENZA 0. **Att:** 50,000.

UDINESE 1 (Bierhoff 56)
CAGLIARI 0. **Att:** 15,000.

ATALANTA 1 (Vieri 92)
PARMA 1 (Stoichkov 77). **Att:** 22,000.

BARI 1 (Protti 2)
NAPOLI 1 (Andre Cruz 87 pen). **Att:** 35,000.

SAMPDORIA 1 (Karembeu 22)
AS ROMA 1 (Branca 24). **Att:** 30,000.

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Lazio	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Fiorentina	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Milan	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Inter	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Udinese	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Bari	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Napoli	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Atalanta	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Sampdoria	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
AS Roma	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Parma	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Padova	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Vicenza	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Cagliari	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Torino	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Cremonese	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
Piazenza	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

PORTUGAL

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

WEEKEND

BOAVISTA 1 (Timofte 51)
BELENENSES 0.

CAMPOMAIORENSE 0
VITORIA GUIMARAES 1 (Emerson 52).

FELGUEIRAS 2 (Earl 50, Sergio Conceicao 57)
DESPORTIVO CHAVES 2 (Dino 37, Paulo Alexandre 71).

LECA 0
GIL VICENTE 2 (Carlitos 53, 58).

FC PORTO 2 (Domingos 65, 88)
SPORTING LISBON 1 (Ouattara 23).

SPORTING BRAGA 2 (Karoglan 1, Pedro Miguel 5)
ESTRELA 1 (Renato 65).

FARENSE 2 (Djukic 12, Toze 70)
TIRSENSE 1 (Eusebio 58).

UNIAO LEIRIA 0
MARITIMO 4 (Jokanovic 61, Edmilson 62, Bunbury 75, Margarido 81).

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

WEEKEND

MARITIMO 0
FELGUEIRAS 2 (Earl 68, Kristin 89).

SALGUEIROS 4 (Abilo 17, M. Bruno 49, F. Almeida 60, Toni 90)
LEIRIA 0.

TIRSENSE 0
BENFICA 1 (Panduru 49).

GUIMARAES 1 (Zahovic 25 pen)
FARENSE 0.

ESTRELA 2 (Jose Carlos 62, Voynov 72 pen)
CAMPOMAIORENSE 0.

BELENENSES 1 (Calila 37)
BRAGA 1 (Pedro Miguel 2).

SPORTING 0
BOAVISTA 0.

GIL VICENTE 0
FC PORTO 1 (Domingos 47).

CHAVES 2 (Dino 54, Toniano 77)
LECA 1 (Miguel Baros 83).

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vitoria Guimaraes	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Sporting Braga	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Desp. Chaves	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Felgueiras	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Maritimo	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Gil Vicente	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Farense	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
FC Porto	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Estrela Amadora	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Benfica	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Boavista	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Salgueiros	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Belenenses	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Sporting Lisbon	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Tirsense	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Campomaiorense	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Leca	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
Uniao Leiria	2	0	0	2	0	6	0

SWITZERLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

MIDWEEK

AARAU 1 (Gutensperger 61)
GRASSHOPPER 4 (Viscaal 30, 76, Ali Ibrahim 44, Comisetti 53). **Att:** 10,000.

BASEL 2 (Okolosi 16,67)
LUCERNE 0. **Att:** 20,000.

SION 1 (La Placa 74)
ST GALLEN 0. **Att:** 10,500.

LAUSANNE 0
SERVETTE 0. **Att:** 7,500.

LUGANO 0
NEUCHATEL XAMAX 3 (Kunz 45, Moldovan 57, 88). **Att:** 5,500.

WEEKEND

FC ZURICH 0
BASEL 0. **Att:** 13,500.

SION 2 (Kombouare 29 pen, 90)
AARAU 1 (Wyss 79 pen). At: 9,800.

SERVETTE 2 (Neuville 24, Sesa 25)
ST GALLEN 2 (Frick 4, Sutter 57). **Att:** 5,500.

LUCERNE v NEUCHATEL – *postponed*

YOUNG BOYS 1 (Gerber 49)
LAUSANNE 1 (Kasun 11). **Att:** 7,000.

LUGANO v GRASSHOPPER – *postponed*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

WEEKEND

LUCERNE 3 (T. Wyss 62, Melina 77, Aleksandrov 82)
NEUCHATEL XAMAX 2 (Wittle 52, Bonalair 59). **Att:** 9,800.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

WEEKEND

AARAU 2 (Markovic 1, Kirik 23)
SERVETTE 4 (Neuville 7, 64, Sesa 27, 87). **Att:** 5,700.

BASEL 0
LUGANO 2 (Erceg 42, Shalimov 89). **Att:** 18,000.

GRASSHOPPER 4 (Comisetti 12, Van Eck og 37, Yakin pen 53, Magnin 63)
LUCERNE 0. **Att:** 5,120.

LAUSANNE 3 (Baggi 31, 35, Dembinski 79)
FC ZURICH 0. **Att:** 4,600.

NEUCHATEL XAMAX 3 (Isabella 20, Kunz 44, Moldovan 67)
SION 0. **Att:** 11,700.

ST GALLEN 0
YOUNG BOYS 0. **Att:** 9,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

WEEKEND

FC ZURICH 1 (Baldassari 88)
NEUCHATEL XAMAX 3 (Witti 52, Moldovan 66, Bonalair 72). **Att:** 2,600.

SION 1 (Quentin 54)
LAUSANNE 0. **Att:** 10,500.

SERVETTE 1 (Duchosal 86)
BASEL 2 (Smajic 19, Rey 33). **Att:** 6,400.

LUCERNE 1 (Fink 88)
ST GALLEN 1 (Zellweger 29). **Att:** 9,000.

YOUNG BOYS 0
GRASSHOPPER 1 (Magnin 21). **Att:** 7,300.

LUGANO 2 (Carrasco 70, Erceg 88)
AARAU 0. **Att:** 3,700.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sion	8	6	0	2	11	8	18
Grasshopper	6	4	1	1	13	5	13
St Gallen	8	3	4	1	13	6	13
Neuchatel	8	4	1	3	13	9	13
Basle	8	4	1	3	10	8	13
Lucerne	8	4	1	3	13	12	13
Servette	8	2	3	3	12	10	9
Lausanne	8	2	3	3	10	8	9
Young Boys	8	2	3	3	6	11	9
Lugano	7	2	1	4	7	13	7
Aarau	7	2	1	4	7	11	7
FC Zurich	8	1	1	6	4	18	4

EURO TABLES

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Neftochimik	3	3	0	0	8	3	9
Levski Kyustendil	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
Montana	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Levski Sofia	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Dobrudzha	3	2	0	1	2	1	6
Lokomotiv Sofia	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Spartak Varna	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Shumen	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
CSKA	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Slavia	3	1	0	2	2	2	3
Botev	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Lok. Plovdiv	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
Rakovski	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Etur	3	1	0	2	1	4	3
Lovech	3	0	1	2	0	3	1
Spartak Plovdiv	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

CZECH REP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovan Liberec	5	4	1	0	6	1	13
Viktoria Plzen	5	3	1	1	8	3	10
Sigma Olomouc	5	3	1	1	8	4	10
Petra Drnovice	4	3	1	0	7	4	10
Slavia Prague	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
Jablonec	5	2	1	2	6	5	7
Viktoria Zizkov	4	1	3	0	7	6	6
Ceske Budejovice	5	2	0	3	7	6	6
Union Cheb	5	2	0	3	4	8	6
Sparta Prague	3	1	2	0	6	3	5
Banik Ostrava	5	1	2	2	6	5	5
Kaucuk Opava	5	1	2	2	4	5	5
FC Boby Brno	5	1	1	3	5	8	4
Hradec Kralove	4	0	2	2	3	5	2
Svit Zlin	5	0	2	3	1	7	2
JOKO U. Hradiste	5	0	2	3	4	11	2

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MTK Budapest	4	4	0	0	12	3	12
Csepel SC	4	3	1	0	10	5	10
Vac FC-Samsung	4	3	0	1	13	8	9
Stadler FC	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Debreceni	4	2	1	1	7	5	7
BVSC-Dreher	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Ferencvaros	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Parmalat FC	4	2	0	2	7	9	6
Gyori FC	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
Vasas	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
Ujpest TE	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
Zalaegerszeg TE	4	1	0	3	7	9	3
Pecs MFC	4	0	1	3	3	8	3
Kispest-Honved	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Bekescsabai	4	0	1	3	4	11	1
Haladas	4	0	0	4	4	12	0

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Widzew Lodz	5	4	1	0	14	3	13
Legia Warsaw	5	4	0	1	8	4	12
Stomil Olsztyn	5	4	0	1	8	4	12
Olimpia Poznan	4	3	1	0	9	4	10
Amica Wronki	5	3	0	2	7	6	9
Pogon Szczecin	5	3	0	2	7	6	9
Hutnik Krakow	5	3	0	2	9	10	9
Gornik Zabrze	5	2	2	1	8	6	8
LKS Lodz	5	2	1	2	5	6	7
Lech Poznan	5	2	0	3	9	9	6
Stal Mielec	5	2	0	3	8	14	6
Zaglebie Lubin	5	1	2	2	8	6	5
Sokol Pniewy	5	1	2	2	5	11	5
GKS Katowice	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
R. Czestochowa	5	1	1	3	3	6	4
Siarka Tarnobrzeg	5	0	3	2	4	6	3
Slask Wroclaw	5	0	2	3	5	8	2
GKS Belchatow	5	0	0	5	4	11	0

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua	4	4	0	0	14	4	12
Rapid	4	3	0	0	10	1	9
Gloria	4	3	0	1	6	2	9
Univ Craiova	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
Petrolul	4	2	1	1	8	6	7
Poli. Timisoara	4	2	1	1	8	8	7
FC Arges	4	2	0	2	7	4	6
Sportul	4	2	0	2	7	6	6
Dinamo	4	2	0	2	5	5	6
Ceahlaul	4	2	0	2	6	7	6
FC Inter	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
FC Farul	4	1	1	2	6	8	4
FC Brasov	4	1	1	2	5	8	4
Univ Cluj	4	1	1	2	4	9	4
Selena	4	1	0	3	4	7	3
Poli. Iasi	4	1	0	3	5	9	3
FC National	4	1	0	3	5	9	3
Otelul Galati	4	1	0	3	3	8	3

SLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tatran Presov	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
DAC Dunajska	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
FC Kosice	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Slovan Bratislava	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Dukla B. Bystrica	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Spartak Trnava	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
Chemlon	3	1	1	1	5	7	4
Lok. Kosice	3	1	0	2	5	4	3
Inter Bratislava	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
JAS Bardejov	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Petrimex Prievidza	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
FC Nitra	3	0	2	1	3	5	2

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo	6	4	2	0	9	0	14
Chornomorets	5	4	1	0	9	1	13
CSKA-Borisfen	6	3	3	0	11	2	12
Dnipro	7	3	2	2	11	5	11
Karpaty Lvov	7	3	2	2	9	7	11
Prykarpattya	7	3	2	2	10	11	11
Nyva Vinnitsa	7	3	1	3	9	6	10
Metalurg	6	3	1	2	7	6	10
Zirka-Nibas	6	2	3	1	8	4	9
Tavria	7	3	0	4	12	11	9
Nyva Ternopil	6	3	0	3	10	12	9
Volyn	6	2	2	2	8	10	8
Torpedo	7	2	2	3	5	8	8
Kryvbas	7	2	1	4	6	10	7
SK Mykolayiv	7	1	2	4	7	14	5
Kremin	7	1	2	4	4	11	5
Shakhtyor	5	1	1	3	7	11	4
Zorya	7	1	1	5	4	17	4

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan	3	3	0	0	12	2	9
Radnicki (N)	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Vojvodina	3	2	0	1	9	3	6
Red Star	3	2	0	1	9	5	6
Becej	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Zemun	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Buducnost	3	1	0	2	5	8	3
Proleter	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Napredak	3	0	1	2	4	11	1
OFK Belgrade	3	0	1	2	4	13	1

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AaB Aalborg	6	4	2	0	18	4	14
FC Copenhagen	6	4	0	2	14	8	12
AGF Aarhus	6	3	3	0	10	5	12
Lyngby	6	3	2	1	11	5	11
OB Odense	6	3	1	2	10	7	10
Silkeborg	6	3	1	2	7	7	10
Brondby	6	3	1	2	12	13	10
Vejle	6	2	2	2	8	9	8
Ikast	6	1	2	3	4	9	5
Herfoelge	6	1	0	5	7	12	3
Naestved	6	0	3	3	6	12	3
Viborg	6	0	1	5	4	20	1

FINLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Haka	20	14	4	2	43	11	46
MyPa	19	13	2	4	33	16	41
FC Jazz	20	11	5	4	37	19	38
HJK Helsinki	19	10	7	2	29	12	37
Ilves Tampere	19	8	6	5	32	27	30
TPS Turku	19	8	5	6	25	21	29
Jaro	20	7	5	8	23	23	26
RoPS	19	4	8	7	15	19	20
MP Mikkeli	19	5	5	9	17	24	20
VPS	20	6	2	12	22	30	20
TPV Tampere	18	5	4	9	23	30	19
FinnPa	18	5	3	10	28	34	18
Ponnistus	20	4	3	13	13	48	15
Kuusysi Lahti	20	3	5	12	16	42	14

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	18	14	3	1	56	20	45
Molde	18	12	3	3	47	25	39
Lillestroem	19	9	7	3	40	23	34
Viking	19	10	2	7	38	21	32
Bodo/Glimt	19	8	5	6	42	37	29
VIF Fotball	19	8	4	7	26	32	26
IK Start	19	8	1	10	37	35	25
Tromso	19	6	5	8	35	32	23
Kongsvinger	19	6	5	8	28	42	23
Stabaek	19	6	4	9	27	32	22
Brann	19	6	3	10	28	38	21
Hoedd	19	6	3	10	24	41	21
Ham-Kam	19	5	3	11	24	42	18
Strindheim	19	2	4	13	19	51	10

❒ *VIF Fotball deducted two points because of financial irregularities last season*

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fenerbahce	3	3	0	0	8	1	9
Galatasaray	3	3	0	0	6	2	9
Samsunspor	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Karsiyaka	3	2	0	1	5	7	6
Besiktas	3	1	2	0	6	3	5
Trabzonspor	3	1	2	0	3	1	5
Denizlispor	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Antalyaspor	3	1	1	1	6	7	4
Eskisehirspor	3	1	0	2	6	6	3
Genclerbirligi	3	0	3	0	4	4	3
Kocaelispor	3	0	3	0	3	3	3
Vanspor	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
Ankaragucu	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Istanbulspor	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Kayserispor	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Gaziantepspor	3	0	1	2	0	3	1
Bursaspor	3	0	1	2	4	8	1
Altay	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – 1995-96

PRELIMINARY RND, 1ST LEG
(August 9 unless stated)

ANDERLECHT 0
FERENCVAROS 1 (Kuntics 58)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Krug (Ger)
Anderlecht: De Vlieger – Crasson (Haagdoren 52), Doll, Grun, Babayaro – Zetterberg (Versavel 60), Karagiannis, Walem, Boffin – Preko, De Bilde.
Ferencvaros: Hajdu – Simon, Telek, Kuntics (Z Nagy 78), Kuznetsov – Albert (Vincze 82), Kecskes, Paling, Nyilas – Lisztes, Kopunovics.

CASINO SALZBURG 0
STEAUA BUCHAREST 0
Att: 11,500. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Salzburg: Konrad – Furstaller, Lainer, Feiersinger – Winklhofer, Prosenik, Mladenovic, Pfeifenberger, Hutter – Jancula (Stadler 66), Hasenhuttl.
Steaua: Stelea – Dobos, Csik, Prodan, Bucur – Panait, Militau, Galca – Lacatus, Ilie (Filipescu 70), Vladoiu (Rosu 83).

GRASSHOPPER 1 (Ibrahim 50)
MACCABI TEL AVIV 1 (Kachentsev 55)
HT:0-0. **Att:** 11,100. **Ref:** Roca (Spa)
Grasshopper: Zuberbuhler – Gamperle, Vega, Gren, Vogel – Lombardo, Yakin, geiger – Comisetti (Sermeter 72), Ali Ibrahim (Magnin 61), Viscaal.
Maccabi: Uvarov – A Brumer, G Brumer, Shelah, Hilel – Klinger, Shoham, Nimny, V Moroz (Nahman 87), Zohar – Kachentsev (Drieks 73).

LEGIA WARSAW 1 (Podbrozny 49)
IFK GOTHENBURG 0
HT:0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Ullenberg (Hol)
Legia: Szczesny – Mandziejewicz (Mosor 80), Zielinski, Jozwiak, Bednarz – Lewandowski, Pisz, Michalski, Wieszczycki – Podbrozny (Staniek 87), Kucharski (Kubica 77).
IFK: Ravelli (Last 43) – Kaamark, J Olsson, M Johansson, M Nilsson – Martinsson, Erlingmark, Landberg, T Andersson – Blomqvist (P Eriksson 57), Lilienberg (Wahlstedt 81).

KIEV DYNAMO 1 (Pokhlebaiev 82 pen)
AAB AALBORG 0
HT:0-0. **Att:** 61,000. **Ref:** Ulrich (Cze)
Kiev: Shovkovski – Khomin, Beyenar, Golovko, Maksimov – Dimitrulin, Pokhlebaiev, Kalitvintsev (Shkapenko 85), Kosovski – Skachenko (Rebrov 46), Shevchenko.
AaB Aalborg: Gill – Thomsen, J Madsen (Thomasberg 85), Kristensen, Boye – Jessen, I Simonsen, J Pedersen, H Rasmussen – P Rasmussen, E Bo Andersson (Gronkjaer 85).

PANATHINAIKOS 0
HAJDUK SPLIT 0
Att: 45,000. **Ref:** Meier (Swi).
Panathinaikos: Nikopolidis – Apostolakis, Ouzounidis, G H Georgiadis, Kalitzakis – G S Georgiadis, Borelli (Christodolou 75), Markos, Maragos – Donis (Alexoudis 78), Warzycha.
Hajduk: Gabric – Boutrorovic, Stimac, Horvat, Hibic – Josinovic, Vulic, Pralija, Asanovic – Rapajic (Mestrovic 79), Mornar (Saar 74).

RANGERS 1 (Durie 68)
ANORTHOSIS FAMAGUSTA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 43,519. **Ref:** Hidlarou (Bel)
Rangers: Goram – Wright, Gough, McLaren, Robertson – Reid (Durie 46), McCall, Gascoigne, Ferguson (Miller 67) – Hateley, Laudrup.
Anorthosis: M Panayotis – P Panayotis, Andreou, Kastenas, Pamayi – I Kiriakov, Asayotis, Stavrou, Todorov – Gogic, Ignatov.

ROSENBORG 3 (Hoftun 22, Strand 27, Brattbakk 75)
BESIKTAS 0
HT:2-0. **Att:** 14,352. **Ref:** Albrecht (Ger)
Rosenborg: Jamtfali – Kvarme, Bragstad (Wasnes 80), Hoftun, Stensaas – Strand, Skammelsrud, Soltvedt, Loken – Brattbakk, Jakobsen.
Besiktas: Aumann – Alpay, R Johnsen, Mutlu – Ali, Riza, Serdar (Mehmet 57), Sergen (Oktay 77) – Ertugrul, Kuntz, Orhan Kaynak.

CUP-WINNERS CUP

PRELIMINARY RND, 1ST LEG
(August 10 unless stated)

APOEL 3 (Andoniou 18, Ioannou 44, 66)
NEFCHI BAKU 0
HT:2-0. **Att:** 14,000

DAG LIEPAJA 1 (Dobrechev 6)
LANTANA 2 (Lapsa 18, Borisov 75)
HT:1-1. **Att:** 1,500
● *Match awarded 3-0 to DAG Liepaja for Lantana fielding an ineligible player*

DERRY CITY 1 (McCourt 44)
LOKOMOTIV SOFIA 0
HT:1-0. **Att:** 5,500

GKS KATOWICE 2 (Bilski 26, Karwan 29)
ARARAT YEREVAN 0
HT:2-0. **Att:** 3,000

GREVENMACHER 3 (Jungbluth 8, 54, Andreas Silva 58)
REYKJAVIK 2 (Biberoic 52, Egilsson 84)
HT:1-0. **Att:** 1,000.

MACCABI HAIFA 4 (Mizrahi 8, 35, 82pen, Shitrit 67)
KI (Faroes) 0
HT:2-0. **Att:** 8,000

MINSK DINAMO-93 1 (Lobanov 37)
MOLDE 1 (Sundgot 85)
HT:1-0. **Att:** 10,000

OBILIC 0
DINAMO BATUMI 1 (Machutadza 71)
HT:0-0. **Att:** 1,000

SHAKHTYOR DONETSK 4 (Ohtyurkin 10, Matvejev 20, Orbu 31, 90)
LINFIELD 1 (Wing 48)
HT:3-0. **Att:** 31,000

TILIGUL TIRASPOL 0
SION 0
Att: 5,000

TPS TURKU 1 (Wallden 30)
TEUTA DURRES 0
HT:1-0. **Att:** 4,200

VAC SAMSUNG 1 (Romanek 90)
FC SILEKS 1 (Micevski 58)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000

VADUZ 0
HRADEC KRALOVE 5 (Cerny 15, Samec 30, 49, 59, Ptacek 32)
HT:2-0. **Att:** 1,300

VALLETTA 0
INTER BRATISLAVA 0
Att: 2,500.

WREXHAM 0
PETROLUL PLOESTI 0
Att: 4,308

ZHALGIRIS VILNIUS 2 (Baltusnikas 53, Tereskinas 67)
NK MURA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,000

UEFA CUP

PRELIMINARY RND, 1ST LEG
(August 8 unless stated)

AFAN LIDO 1 (Moore 30)
RAF RIGA 2 (Karashauskas 21, Bogdans 58)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 2,117

APOLLON ATHENS 1 (Blendar 41)
OLIMPIJA LJUBLJANA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000.

BANGOR CITY 0
WIDZEW LODZ 4 (Czerviec 25, 42, Koniarek 51, 89)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,600

BOTEV PLOVDIV 1 (Guerov 45)
TBILISI DYNAMO 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,000

BRONDBY 3 (Hansen 12, Bjur 44, Sand 81)
INKARAS-GRIFAS 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 4,000

CRUSADERS 1 (Hunter 67)
SILKEBORG 2 (Fernandez 15, Larsen 46)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,000

DINAMO BUCHAREST 0
LEVSKI SOFIA 1 (Ivanov 29)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,000

DUNDALK 0
MALMO 2 (Petterson 1, Andersson 11)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 3,500

FENERBAHCE 2 (Bolic 71, Uygen 87)
PARTIZAN TIRANA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000

GLENAVON 0
HAFNARFJORDUR 0
Att: 3,500

HIBERNIANS 2 (Lawrence 28, Sultana 87)
CHERNOMORETS ODESSA 5 (Goesienov 14, Asjkin 23, Darfenov 39, Koerniyets 49, Motsyolak 53)
HT: 1-3. **Att:** 5,000

JEUNESSE D'ESCH 0
LUGANO 0
Att: 2,500

KAPAZ GANJA 0
FK AUSTRIA 4 (Mjelde 30, Belajic 38, Flogel 49, Pacult 86)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 5,000

KARLSRUHE 0
BORDEAUX 2 (Dugarry 41, Dutuel 87)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,500

FC KOSICE 0
UJPEST TE 1 (Tiefenbacher 41)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,500

LILLESTROM 4 (Ingelstad 44, Ingebrigsten 61, Gulbrandsen 69,88)
FLORA TALLINN 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,500

MOTHERWELL 1 (McSkimming 9)
MyPa 3 (Gronholm 13, Tiainen 31, Mahlio 55)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 8,280

OMONIA 3 (Stefan 40 pen, Malekos 52, 75)
SLIEMA WANDERERS 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 9,000

OREBRO 0
AVENIR BEGGEN 0
Att: 5,500

RAITH ROVERS 4 (Dair 21, Rougier 46, McAnespie 77, Cameron 80)
GOTU ITROTTARFELAG 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,082

RED STAR BELGRADE 0
NEUCHATEL XAMAX 1 (Witt 86)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 19,000

SHELBOURNE 0
IA AKRANES 3 (A Gunlaugsson 22, 83, Reynisson 87)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,500

SKONTO RIGA 1 (Babisjevs 12)
MARIBOR BRANIK 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000

SLAVIA SOFIA 0
OLYMPIAKOS 2 (Ivic 82, Juskowiak 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000

SLOVAN BRATISLAVA 4 (Tittel 8, Rusnak 15, 41, Faktor 90)
OSIJEK 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 9,000

SPARTA PRAGUE 3 (Nadved 18, 73, Lokvenc 23)
GALATASARAY 1 (Saunders 56)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 18,000

STURM GRAZ 0
SLAVIA PRAGUE 1 (Beljbl 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000

SK TIRANA 0
HAPOEL BEERSHEBA 1 (Zeiberlins 23)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,000

TIROL INNSBRUCK 1 (Schiener 63)
STRASBOURG 1 (Sauzee 26)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 6,000

TPs 0
VIKING 4 (Gawara 47, Ostenstad 57, Medalen 72, Serloth 86)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,500

UNIVERSITATEA CRAIOVA 0
MINSK DINAMO 0
Att: 20,000

VARDAR 1 (Nikolovski 6)
SAMTREDIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,750

ZAGLEBIE LUBIN 0
SHIRAK YEREVAN 0
Att: 6,000

ZIMBRU CHISINAU 2 (Gavrilioek 27, Rebeja 70)
HAPOEL TEL AVIV 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – 1995-96

PRELIMINARY RND, 2ND LEG
(August 23 unless stated)

AAB AALBORG 1 (P Rasmussen 86)
KIEV DYNAMO 3 (Kalitvintsev 36, Shevchenko 49, 76)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,100. **Ref:** Uzunov (Bul)
Kiev Dynamo won 4-1 on agg
AaB Aalborg: Gill – Boye, Simonsen, Kristensen (Facius 46), J Jessen – L Thomsen, H Rasmussen, J Pedersen (Gronkjaer 46), Madsen (K Thomsen) – P Rasmussen, E B Andersson.
Kiev: Shovkovski – Luzhni (Khomin 81), Golovko, Dmitrulin, Beyenar – Pokhlebaiev, Maksimov (Mikhailenko 77), Kalitvintsev, Kosovski – Shevchenko, Shkapendo (Rebrov 71).

ANORTHOSIS FAMAGUSTA 0
RANGERS 0
Att: 12,000. **Ref:** Vagner (Hun)
Rangers won 1-0 on agg
Anorthosis: M Panayiotou – A Panayiotou, Andreou, Castanas, Pamayi, Kiriakov, Assiotis (Ppounas 60), Stavrou, Gogic, Todorov, Ignatov (Thoma 75).
Rangers: Goram – Wright, Robertson, Gough, McLaren, Petric, McCall, Gascoigne (Durrant 25), Miller, Hateley, Durie.

BESIKTAS 3 (Kuntz 8, 85 pen, Mehmet Ozdilek 87)
ROSENBORG 1 (Brattbakk 68)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Batta (Fra)
Rosenborg won 4-3 on agg
Besiktas: Aumann – Recep, Alpay, Johnsen, Mutlu – Sergen, Riza, Mehmet – Sertan (Oktay 60), Kuntz, Orhan.
Rosenborg: Jamtfall – Kvarme, Bragstad, Stensaas, Hoftun – Loken, Strand (Staurvik 89), Skammelsrud, Soltvedt (Iversen 51) – Jakobsen, Brattbakk.

FERENCVAROS 1 (Kopunovic 49)
ANDERLECHT 1 (De Bilde 65)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Mottram (Sco)
Ferencvaros won 2-1 on agg
Ferencvaros: Hajdu – Simon, Telek, Kuznetsov – Paling, Nyilas, Lisztes (Zavadszky 73), Kecskes – Kuntics, Kopunovics (Nagy 59).
Anderlecht: De Wilde – Crasson (Haagdoren 58), Grun, Doll, Babayaro – Walem, Karagiannis (J Bosman 86), Versavel (Zetterberg 58), Boffin – Preko, De Bilde.

HAJDUK SPLIT 1 (Stimac 4)
PANATHINAIKOS 1 (Borrelli 55)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 11,000 *(in Rijeka)*. **Ref:** Craciunescu (Rom)
Agg: 1-1, Panathinaikos on away goals
Hajduk: Gabric – Boutrorovic, Jozinovic, Stimac*, Hibic – Horvath, Vulic (Mestrovic 14), Pralija, Asanovic – Jurcec (Saar 68), Mornar.
* = *Stimac sent off.*
Panathinaikos: Nikopolidis – Apostolakis, Ouzounidis, G H Georgiadis, Kalitzakis* – G S Georgiadis, Borelli (Christodolou 68), Markos, Maragos (Alexoudis 52) – Donis, Warzycha (Lagonikakis 86).
* = *Kalitzakis sent off.*

IFK GOTHENBURG 1 (Blomqvist 25)
LEGIA WARSAW 2 (Pisz 73, Bednarz 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 11,017. **Ref:** Elleray (Eng)
Legia Warsaw won 3-1 on agg
IFK: Last – Kaamark, Olsson*, Johansson, M Nilsson -Landberg (Eriksson 69), Erlingmark*, Lindqvist, Blomqvist – S Pettersson, Lilienberg (Wahlstedt 50).
* = *Olsson & Erlingmark sent off*
Legia: Szczesny – Jozwiak, Zielinski, Mandziejewicz, Ratajczak (Pisz 38) – Lewandowski (Fedoruk 87), Bednarz, Michalski, Wieszczycki – Podbrozny, Kucharski (Staniek 56).

MACCABI TEL AVIV 0
GRASSHOPPER 1 (Comisetti 4)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 13,500. **Ref:** Nicci (Ita)
Grasshopper won 2-1 on agg
Maccabi: Uvarov – Levi, G Brumer, Shelah, Hilel (Drieks 17) – Shoham (Melika 67), Klinger, A Brumer, Zohar (V Moroz 55), Nimny – Kachentsev.
Grasshopper: Zuberbuhler – Gamperle, Gren, Vega, Thuler – Lombardo, Yakin, Geiger, Comisetti (Vogel 64) – Magnin (De Napoli 73), Viscaal.

STEAUA BUCHAREST 1 (Ilie 32)
CASINO SALZBURG 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Montero Coroado (Por)
Steaua Bucharest won 1-0 on agg
Steaua: Stelea – Panait, Dobos, Prodan, Pirvu – Gilca, Militaru (Csik 89), Ilie (Filipescu 72), Bucur – Lacatus (Rosu 85), Vladoiu.
Salzburg: Konrad – Prosenik (Hiden 50), Furstaller, Lainer (Stadler 69), Feiersinger – Winklhofer, Mladenovic, Hutter*, F Aigner – Pfeifenberger, Hasenhuttl (Racunica 62).
* = *Hutter sent off.*

CUP-WINNERS CUP

PRELIMINARY RND, 2ND LEG
(August 24 unless stated)

DYNAMO BATUMI 2 (Machutadze 65, Mudzhiri 82 pen)
OBILIC 2 (Vilotovic 8, Popovic 32)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 25,000.
Dynamo Batumi won 3-2 on agg

PETROLUL PLOIESTI 1 (Pirlog 59)
WREXHAM 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000
Petrolul won 1-0 on agg

TEUTA DURRES 3 (Vila 8, Koca 19, Bushi 55)
TPS TURKU 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 5,000
Teuta won 3-1 on agg

HRADEC KRALOVE 9 (Samec 14, 9, 30, 53, Urban 15, 82 pen, Vrabel 37, 50 pen)
FC VADUZ 1 (Ritter 27)
HT: 5-1. **Att:** 3,558
Hradec Kralove won 14-1 on agg

SILEKS 3 (Memedi 15, 67, Borov 35)
VAC SAMSUNG 1 (Orguja 20)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 12,000
FC Sileks won 4-2 on agg

NK MURA 2 (Kokol 10, Alihod 90)
ZHALGARIS VILNIUS 1 (Vencevicius 72)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000
Zhalgiris won 3-2 on agg

NEFCHI BAKU 0
APOEL NICOSIA 0
Att: 4,000
Apoel won 3-0 on agg

ARARAT YEREVAN 2 (Gspeyan 23, Tonoyan 26 pen)
GKS KATOWICE 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 7,000
Agg: 2-2, Ararat won 5-4 on pens

FC LANTANA 0
DAG LIEPAJA 0
Att: 800
DAG Liepaja won 3-0 on agg
● *Lantana won the first leg 2-1 but UEFA subsequently awarded the match 3-0 to the Latvians because Lantana fielded an ineligible player*

LOK. SOFIA 2 (Slavchev 6, Hvoinev 29)
DERRY CITY 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 4,000
Lokomotiv won 2-1 on agg

MOLDE FK 2 (Gunnar Solskjaer 4, Stavsum 67)
DINAMO MINSK-93 1 (Skripchenko 19)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 2,989
Molde FK won 3-2 on agg

INTER BRATISLAVA 5 (Tomko 15, 39, Rupec 10, Saliba og 79, Landerl 85)
VALLETTA 2 (Donic 61, Zarb 84)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,300
Inter won 5-2 on agg

KI 3 (Danielsen 53, 63, 70)
MACCABI HAIFA 2 (Revivo 31, Shitrit 84)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 295
Maccabi won 6-3 on agg

LINFIELD 0
SHAKTYOR DONETSK 1
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,000
Shaktyor won 5-1 on agg

UEFA CUP

PRELIMINARY RND, 2ND LEG
(August 22 unless stated)

IA AKRANES 3 (S Jonsson 45, O Thordarson 58, B Petursson 89)
SHELBOURNE 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,500 *(Aug 23)*
IA Akranes won 6-0 on agg

HAFNARFJORDUR 0
GLENAVON 1
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 500 *(Aug 23)*
Glenavon won 1-0 on agg

LUGANO 4 (Erceg 18, 45, 54, Esposito 34)
JEUNESSE D'ESCH 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 4,000 *(Aug 23)*
Lugano won 4-0 on agg

MALMO 2 (Andersson 22, Fjellstrom 50)
DUNDALK 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,112 *(Aug 23)*
Malmo won 4-0 on agg

AVENIR BEGGEN 1 (Holtz 21)
OREBRO 1 (Birgirsson 88)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,200
Avenir won 4-1 on agg
● *UEFA awarded the first leg – a 0-0 draw – 3-0 to Avenir because Orebro fielded an ineligible player*

BORDEAUX 2 (Lizarazu 2 pen, 10)
KARLSRUHE 2 (Fink 39, Schmitt 88)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 15,000
Bordeaux won 4-2 on agg

MARIBOR 2 (Strebal 17, Fricelj 21)
SKONTO RIGA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 1,500.
Maribor Branik won 2-1 on agg

CHERNOMORETS ODESSA 2 (Kozakevich 32, Musalitin 78)
HIBERNIANS 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,000.
Chernomorets won 7-2 on agg

FK AUSTRIA 5 (Mjelde 10, A Ogris 18, 42, Glatzer 64)
KAPAZ GANJA 1 (Suleymanov 26)
HT: 4-1. **Att:** 1,700
FK Austria won 9-1 on agg

FLORA TALLINN 1 (O Korgalidze 52)
LILLESTROM 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,000
Lillestrom won 4-1 on agg

GALATASARAY 1 (Saunders 4)
SPARTA PRAGUE 1 (Nedved 22)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 28,000.
Sparta Prague won 4-2 on agg

GOTU ITROTTARFELAG 2 (H Jarnskov 77, M Jarnskov 87)
RAITH 2 (Lennon 30, Crawford 82)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 350
Raith won 6-2 on agg

HAPOEL BEERSHEBA 2 (Gussev 20, Avigdor 23)
SK TIRANA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 5,000
Hapoel Beersheba won 3-0 on agg

RESULTS

Iraq win Merdeka Cup . . . Portugal thrash Liechtenstein 7-0 in Euro

HAPOEL TEL AVIV 0
ZIMBRU CHISINAU 0
Att: 3,000
Zimbru won 2-0 on agg

INKARAS-GRIFAS 0
BRONDBY 3 (Peter Moller 52, 66, Risager 67)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000
Brondby won 6-0 on agg

LEVSKI SOFIA 1 (Ivan Vassilev 108)
DINAMO BUCHAREST 1 (Lupu 70)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000
Levski won 2-1 on agg, aet

MINSK DINAMO 0
UNIV. CRAIOVA 0
Att: 8,000.
Agg: 0-0, Minsk won 3-1 on pens

MyPa 0
MOTHERWELL 2 (Burns 28, Arnott 69)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,000
Agg: 3-3, MyPa won on away goals

NEUCHATEL XAMAX 0
RED STAR BELGRADE 0
Att: 12,000
Neuchatel won 1-0 on agg

OLIMPIJA LJUBLJANA 3 (K Bozgo 11, L Bozga 67, Dulic 81)
APOLLON ATHENS 1 (Kola 2)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 2,500
Olimpija won 3-2 on agg

OLYMPIAKOS 1 (Ivic 10)
SLAVIA SOFIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000
Olympiakos won 3-0 on agg

OSIJEK 0
SLOVAN BRATISLAVA 2 (Rusnak 54, Fabio Luis Gomez 86)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000 *(in Zagreb)*
Slovan won 6-0 on agg

PARTIZAN TIRANA 0
FENERBAHCE 4 (Uygun Bulent 21, Sentur Kemaletin 26, Elvis Bolic 60, Koceman Aykut 86)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 8,000
Fenerbahce won 6-0 on agg

RAF RIGA 0
AFAN LIDO 0
Att: 1,100
RAF Riga won 2-1 on agg

SAMTREDIA 0
VARDAR 2 (Serafimovsky 20, Petrovski 39)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 25,000
Vardar won 3-0 on agg

SHIRAK YEREVAN 0
ZAGLEBIE LUBIN 1 (Makhai 24)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 18,000
Zaglebie won 1-0 on agg

SILKEBORG 4 (M Larsen 10, Fernandez 61, Sommer 69, 85)
CRUSADERS 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,339
Silkeborg won 6-1 on agg

SLAVIA PRAGUE 1 (Hysky 45)
STURM GRAZ 1 (Haas 54)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,430
Slavia won 2-1 on agg

SLIEMA WANDS 1 (Suda 43)
OMONIA 2 (Valentin 70, P Panaytou 88)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,500
Omonia won 5-1 on agg

STRASBOURG 6 (Sauzee 16, 54, Mostovoi 65, Keller 67, 70, 90)
TIROL 1 (Kirchler 51)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000
Strasbourg won 7-2 on agg

TBILISI DYNAMO 0
BOTEV PLOVDIV 1 (Vidulov 88)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000
Botev won 2-0 on agg

UJPEST 2 (Berczy 56, Szanyo 81)
FC KOSICE 1 (Weise 85)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000
Ujpest TE won 3-1 on agg

VIKING 3 (Bergersen 4, 41, Sorloth 63)
TPs 1 (Wiss 89 pen)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,354
Viking won 7-1 on agg

WIDZEW LODZ 1 (Pikuta 84)
BANGOR CITY 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000
Widzew won 5-0 on agg

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

SUNDAY, JULY 23

Jul 23 = Bamako – intl friendly
MALI 2 (S L Traore 15, 19)
IVORY COAST 2 (S Bamba 65, 71)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 25,000.

TUESDAY, JULY 25

Jul 25 = Kuala Lumpur – Merdeka tmt semi-final
IRAQ 1 (Hussam Naje 69)
BULGARIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

Jul 26 = Kuala Lumpur – Merdeka tmt semi-final
MALAYSIA 0
HUNGARY 2 (Fodor 36, Fischer 69)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 22,000.

THURSDAY, JULY 27

Jul 27 = George Town – CONCACAF Gold Cup qual
ST VINCENT 3 (Hinds 46, Jack 48, Prince 51)
CUBA 2 (Hernandes 13, Azcuy 68)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,500.

SATURDAY, JULY 29

Jul 29 = Vilnius – intl friendly
LITHUANIA 1 (Skarbalius 10)
BYELORUSSIA 1 (Katchouro 73 pen)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Lajuks (Lat)
Lithuania: Poskus (Ramuska 79) – Kanchelskis, Valnoras, Ziukas, Tereskinas – Stonkus, Baltusnikas (Kirilovas 60), Maciulevicius (Vencevicius 76), Stukalinas (Stumbrys 46) – Skarbalius, Zvungilas (Zuta 71).
Byelorussia: Sasounkevitch – Gourenko, Taikov, Rodionok, Dovar – K Kovalenko, Shashkievich (Shmeinicko 46), Shaiko (Shavrov 68), Shoukanov (Makovski 67) – A Kovalenko (Shtanyouk 87), Kanchouro, Borovski.

SUNDAY, JULY 30

Jul 30 = Yaounde – Af Chp gp 1
CAMEROON 1 (Simo 49)
ZIMBABWE 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 90,000. **Ref:** Okoampah (Gha)

Jul 30 = Dakar – Af Chp gp 2
SENEGAL 3 (Ma Diallo 40pen, 52, Am Traore 80)
LIBERIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Al Faye (Gam)

Jul 30 = Nouakchott – Af Chp gp 2
MAURITANIA 0
TUNISIA 0
Att: 12,000.

Jul 30 = Brazzaville – Af Chp gp 3
CONGO 0
GHANA 2 (F Aboagye 57, 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 21,000.

Jul 30 = Algiers – Af Chp gp 4
ALGERIA 2 (Marsha og 29, Amrouche 59)
TANZANIA 1 (Moh Hussein 21)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 45,000.

Jul 30 = Alexandria – Af Chp gp 4
EGYPT 6 (El Kas 4, 65, 73, A Sary 8, 43, Abugreisha 36)
UGANDA 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 50,000.

Jul 30 = Luanda – Af Chp gp 6
ANGOLA 4 (Joni 1, 43, Paulao 44, 55)
BOTSWANA 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 25,000.

Jul 30 = Conakry – Af Chp gp 6
GUINEA 4 (Titi Camara 28, 45, Sow 65pen, Moh Camara 87)
MALI 1 (Diawara 13)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 20,000.

Jul 30 = Windhoek – Af Chp gp 6
NAMIBIA 0
MOZAMBIQUE 0
Att: 10,000.

Jul 30 = Ouagadougou – Af Chp gp 7
BURKINA FASO 1 (Ab Ouattara 22)
IVORY COAST 1 (Tiehi 64)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Olufunmi (Nig)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

Aug 1 = Toronto – Caribbean Cup
CANADA 3 (Kouzmanis 34, 35, G Augner 57)
JAIAMCA 1 (O Lowe 33)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 5,883. **Ref:** Esfandiar (US)

Aug 1 = Aomori – friendly
JAPAN 3 (Matsubara 29, Jo 53, 54)
RUSSIA 2 (Kholkhov 65, Radimov 84)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,000.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

Aug 2 = Kuala Lumpur – Merdeka Cup Final
IRAQ 2 (Mohammed 65, Drain 70)
HUNGARY 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,000.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

Aug 3 = Toronto – Caribbean Cup
CANADA 3 (Kouzmanis 34, 70, Peschisolido 70)
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 1 (Boisson 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,508. **Ref:** Esfandiar (US)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

Aug 6 = Toronto – Caribbean Cup
JAMAICA 1 (Whitmore 88)
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,890. **Ref:** Camacho (Can)

Aug 6 = Kyoto – intl friendly
JAPAN 3 (Nanami 44, Fukuda 65, Kitazawa 74)
COSTA RICA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,420.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

Aug 9 = Tokyo – intl friendly
JAPAN 1 (Fukuda 49)
BRAZIL 5 (Kojima og 20, Edmundo 23, Leonardo 60, Cesar Sampaio 72, Savio 89)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 53,605. **Ref:** Petrovic (Yug)
Japan: Kojima – Yanagimoto, Ihara, Hashiratani, Soma, Hayashi – M Yamaguchi, Ramos Rui, H Morishima (Kitazawa 72) – Kazu Miura, Fukuda (Kurosaki 61).
Brazil: Gilmar – Jorginho (Bruno Carvalho 87), Ronaldo (Narciso 75), Andre Cruz, Rodrigo – Cesar Sampaio, Dunga, Zinho, Leonardo (Juninho 75) – Edmundo, Giovanni (Savio 75).

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

Aug 10 = Suwon – intl friendly
SOUTH KOREA 0
BRAZIL 1 (Dunga 34).
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 30,000.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

Aug 15 = Eschen – Euro Chp gp 6
LIECHTENSTEIN 0
PORTUGAL 7 (Domingos 25, Paulinho 33, Rui Costa 41, 71, Paulo Alves 67, 73, 90)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Poljak (Cro)
Liechtenstein: Heeb – Stocker (C Frick 46), J Zech, Hasler, Hanselmann, Moser – Hilti, H Zech, Klaunzer (Marxer 46), Telser (Oehri 68) – M Frick.
Portugal: Alfredo (Rui Correa 82) – Oceano (Sa Pinto 46), Fernando Couto, Jorge Costa, Dimas (Paulo Alves 55) – Secretario, Paulinho Santos, Rui Costa – Rui Barros, Folha, Domingos.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

Aug 16 = Yerevan – Euro Chp gp 2
ARMENIA 0
DENMARK 2 (M Laudrup 32, Allan Nielsen 46)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 22,000.
Armenia: A Petrosyan – Ovsepyan, Kachatryan, Kachatryan, Ovanesyan, Tonoyan, A Petrosyan, Grigoryan, Takhmazyan (H Petrosyan 40), Shakhgeldyan, Avetisyan (Avetisyan 83).
Denmark: Schmeichel – Laursen, Rieper, J Hogh, Risager (Schjoenberg 85), Thomsen, Jensen (A Nielsen 46), Steen Nielsen, Bech, M Laudrup, P Rasmussen.

Aug 16 = Trabzon – Euro Chp gp 1
AZERBAIJAN 0
SLOVAKIA 1 (Jancula 60)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
Azerbaijan: Sadikov – Getman, Gadirov, Ahmedov, Agayev (Asadov 71), Abushev, Huseyinov, Diniyev (Kurbanov 46), Nosenko, Lychkin, Alexerov.
Slovakia: Molnar – Balish, Sobona, Tomaschek, Kinder, Tittel, Petskou, Simon, Rusnak (Jancula 58), Dubovsky, Moravcik (Fatktor 75).

Aug 16 = Tallinn – Euro Chp gp 4
ESTONIA 0
LITHUANIA 1 (Matsiulevicius 48)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,750. **Ref:** Nilsson (Swe)
Lithuania: Stauce – Shiukas, Sukristovas, Tereshkinas, Vainoras, Shuika, Maciulevicius, Ivanauskas, Stonkus, Skarbalius (T Kanchelskis 77), Shlekys (Zuta 67).
Estonia: Poom – Lemsalu, R Kallaste, Lepa, Lell, Kiisman (Kraam 46), O'Konnel-Bronin (Olesk 73), Lindmaa, Reim, Kristal, Kirs.

Aug 16 = Helsinki – Euro Chp gp 8
FINLAND 0
RUSSIA 6 (Kulkov 32, 51, Karpin 42, Radchenko 42, Kolyvanov, 67, 69)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 14,200.
Finland: Laukkanen – Kanerva, Makela (Suominen 46), Holmgren, Nieminen, Lindberg, Hjelm, Tiainen, Rantanen (Gronlund 46), Sumiala, Paatelainen (Jarvinen 46).
Russia: Kharin (Cherchesov 72) – Nikiforov, Kovtun, Onopko, Khlestov, Karpin (Kanchelskis 60), Mostovoi, Kulkov, Tsymbalar, Radchenko (Kiriakov 68), Kolyvanov.

Aug 16 = Paris – Euro Chp gp 1
FRANCE 1 (Djorkaeff 86)
POLAND 1 (Juskowiak 35)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,426. **Ref:** Diaz Vega (Spa)
France: Lama – Angloma (Karembeu 66), Thuram, Leboeuf (Djorkaeff 70), Lizarazu, Deschamps, Zidane, Desailly, Guerin, Dugarry, Ginola (Pedros 64).
Poland: Wozniak – Lapinski, Zielinski, Waldoch, Kozminski, P Swierczewski, Iwan, Kosecki (Wojtala 72), Nowak (Czerwiec 57), Kowalczyk (Bukalski 60), Juskowiak.

Aug 16 = Budapest – friendly intl
HUNGARY 0
ISRAEL 2 (Revivo 18, Mizrahi 51)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Porumbolu (Rom)
Hungary: Petry (Z Vegh 46) – Monos, Marton, Lipcsei, Kereszturi, Kozma, Halmai (Banfi 54), Salloi (Buekszegi 76), Illes (Farkashazy 54), Kiprich, K Kovacs (Hamar 46).
Israel: R Cohen – Halfon, Shelah, A Harazi, Hazan (Levy 86), Glam, Banin, Berkowitz (Zano 88), Klinger, Revivo (Mizrahi 46), Drieks (Nimny 46).

Aug 16 = Reykjavik – Euro Chp gp 3
ICELAND 0
SWITZERLAND 2 (Knup 3, Turkyilmaz 13)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 9,034. **Ref:** Wojcik (Pol)
Iceland: B Kristinsson – Adolphsson, K Jonsson (Dervic 87), S Jonsson, B Gunnlaugsson, R Kristinsson, Bergsson, T Orlygsson, A Gunnlaugsson, O Thordarson, Sverrisson (Ingolfsson 66).
Switzerland: Pascolo – Hottiger, Quentin, Hanchoz, Geiger, Fournier, A Sutter (Bickel 78), Ohrel, Knup, Sforza, Turkyilmaz (Bonvin 83).

Aug 16 = Riga – Euro Chp gp 6
LATVIA 3 (Rimkus 13, 59, Zeiberlins 88)
AUSTRIA 2 (Polster 68, Ramusch 78)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Koho (Fin)
Latvia: Laizans – Troickis, Asafievs, Zemlinskis, Shevlakovs, Bleidelis, Ivanovs, Zeiberlins, Rimkus, Babichevs (A Jelisejevs 75), Zakreshevskis (Monjaks, 82).
Austria: Konrad – Pfefer, Schottel, Kogler (Schopp 46), Kogler, Marasek, A Ogris (Ramusch 63), Prosenik (Stoeger 63), Polster, Feiersinger, Pfeifenberger.

Aug 16 = Oslo – Euro Chp gp 5
NORWAY 1 (Berg 27)
CZECH REP 1 (Suchoparek 84)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,054. **Ref:** Khuasainov (Rus)
Norway: Thorstvedt – Loken, Berg, Johnsen, Haland – Flo, Bohinen, Solbakken, Leonhardsen, J I Jakobsen (Brendesather 69) – Fjortoft (Brattbakk 80).
Czech Rep: Kouba – Kadlec – Hapal, Suchoparek, Repka – Latal (Poborsky 78), Nemec, Frydek, Berger (Nedved 46) – Drulak (Samec 78), P Kuka.

Aug 16 = Glasgow [Hampden] – Euro Chp gp 8
SCOTLAND 1 (McCoist 72)
GREECE 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 34,910 **Ref:** P Mikkelsen (Den)
Scotland: Leighton – McKimmie, Boyd, McCall, Calderwood, McKinlay, D Shearer (McCoist 71), Burley, Jackson (Robertson 71), McAllister, Collins.
Greece: Atmatzidis – Apostolakis, Karataidis, Kalitzakis, Dabizas, Tsalouchidis, Zagorakis (Georgiadis 79), Batista (Alexandris 51), Vryzas (Machlas 30), Tsartas, Kassapis.

Aug 16 = Norrkoping – friendly
SWEDEN 1 (Brolin 85pen)
UNITED STATES 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 14,249.
Sweden: B Andersson – R Nilsson (M Nilsson 78), P Andersson, Bjorklund, Kamark –Brolin, Thern, Schwarz, Landberg (Gudmundsson 74) –K Andersson (Pettersson 59), Dahlin.
United States: Friedel – Burns, Lapper, Caligiuri, Lalas, Pittman – Moore, Reyna, Klopas (Lassiter 55), Agoos – Wegerle (Kirovski 69).

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

Aug 23 = Brussels, [King Baudouin Stadium] – friendly
BELGIUM 1 (Goossens 17)
GERMANY 2 (Moller 6, Bobic 83)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** VD Ende (Hol)
Belgium: Bodart – Genaux, Renier, Medved, R Smidts (Leonard 46) – Bettagno, Staelens, Van Meir (Foguenne 46), Schepens – Nilis, Goossens.
Germany: Kopke – Kohler (Haber 57; Labbadia 80), Helmer, Babbel – Freund, Scholl, Basler, A Moller, Strunz (Elits 46) – Heinrich, Bobic.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

Group 1: Armenia 2 Denmark 3, France 4 Poland 1.

SHELL CARIBBEAN CUP

(Cayman Islands)
Semi-finals: St Vincent 2 Cayman Is 1, Cuba 1 Trinidad and Tobago 3. **3rd place:** Cuba 2 Cayman Is 0. **Final:** Trinidad and Tobago 2 St Vincent 0.

OTHER MATCHES

Jul 2: Colombia 2 (Rincon, F Asprilla) River Plate 0, San Lorenzo 2 Univsidad Catolica 2, Independiente SF (Col) 0 NAcional (Ecu) 2.

SOUTH AMERICA

LIBERTADORES CUP

QUARTER-FINALS – 1ST LEG

July 26 – Medellin (Colombia)
NACIONAL (Col) 2 (Arango, Aristizabal)
MILLONARIOS (Col) 1 (Iguaran)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** A. Guevara (Ecu). **Att:** 35,000.
Nacional: Higuita, Santa, Marulanda, Foronda, F. Mosquera, Gutierrez, Serna, Garcia, Morantes, Aristizabal,Arango (Angulo).
Millonarios: Cancelarich, R. Ramirez, Lopez, Alvarez, Dominguez, Y. Mosquera, B. Mosquera, Rendon (A. Valderrama), J. Ramirez, Iguaran, Leon.

July 26 – Guayaquil (Ecuador)
EMELEC (Ecu) 3 (E. Hurtado 2, Reherman)
SPORTING CRISTAL (Peru) 1 (Astegiano)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 30,000.

July 26 – Porto Alegre (Brazil)
GREMIO (Bra) 5 (Arce, Arilson, Jardel 3)
PALMEIRAS (Bra) 0.
HT: 2-0.
Gremio: Danrlei, Arce, Rivarola, Adilson, Roger, Dinho, Goiano, Arilson, Carlos Miguel, Paulo Nunes, Jardel.
Palmeiras: Sergio, Cafu, Antonio Carlos, Cleber, Roberto Carlos, Amaral, Flavio Conceicao, Mancuso, Rivaldo, Alex Alves, Muller.

July 26 – Buenos Aires (Arg)
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 1 (Amato)
VELEZ SARSFIELD (Arg) 1 (Zandona)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** J. Castrilli (Arg).
River Plate: Sodero, H. Diaz, C. Ayala, Corti, Aitamirano, Almeyda (Cadres 54), Astrada, Berti, Gallardo (Amato 46), Ortega, Crespo.
Velez Sarsfield: Chilavert, Zandona, Trotta, Sotomayor, Cardoso, Basualdo, Gomez, Compagnucci, Moriggi, Asad (Pellegrino 53), Fernandez (Hussain 46).

QUARTER-FINALS – 2ND LEG

Aug 2 – Bogota (Col)
MILLONARIOS (Col) 1 (Leon)
NACIONAL (Col) 1 (Serna pen)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** F. Chapell (Peru). **Att:** 50,000.
Nacional won 3-2 on agg
Millonarios: Cancelerich, Rivas, Lopez, Alvarez, Dominquez, Y. Mosquera (Castilio), B. Mosquera, Rendon, Ramirez, Iguaran, Leon.
Nacional: Higuita, Santa, Maruianda, Foronda, F. Mosquera, Gutierrez, Serne, Garcia, Morantas (Arango), Aristizabal, Angulo (Perea).

Aug 7 – Sao Paulo (Bra)
PALMEIRAS (Bra) 5 (Cafu 2, Amaral, Paulo Isidoro, Mancuso pen)
GREMIO (Bra) 1 (Jardel)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 7,700. **Ref:** A. Pereira (Bra).
Gremio won 6-5 on agg
Gremio: Murilo, Arce, Rivarola, Scheidt, Roger (Andre), Adilson, Goiano, Arilson, Carlos Miguel, Paulo Nunes (Mancini), Jardel (Nildo).
Palmeiras: Sergio, Indio, Antonio Carlos, Cleber, Wagner, Cafu, Alex Alves (Maurilio), Mancuso, Amaral (Magrao), Paulo Isidoro, Muller.

Aug 2 – Buenos Aires (Arg)
VELEZ SARSFIELD (Arg) 0
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 0
Ref: R. Lemolina (Arg). **Att:** 25,000.
Agg: 2-2, River won 5-2 on pens
Velez Sarsfield: Chilavert, Zandona, Trotta, Pellegrino, Dominquez, Basualdo, Gomez (Herrera), Campannucci, Morigci, Asad, Fernandez.
River Plate: Burgos, H. Diaz, C.

Ayala, Corti, Altamirano, Almeyda, Astrada, Cedres, Gallardo, Ortega, Amato.

Aug 2 – Lima (Peru)
SPORTING CRISTAL (Peru) 1 (Pinillos)
EMELEC (Ecu) 1 (M. Tenorio)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** J. Nieves (Uru). **Att:** 25,000.
Emelec won 4-2 on agg
Sp. Cristal: Balerio, Asteggiano, Jose Soto, Jorge Soto, Prado, Solano, Palacios, Pinillos, Maestri, Julinho, Rivera.
Emelec: Espinoza, Quinteros, Poroso, I. Hurtado, L. Capurro, Tenorio, Verduga, Fajardo, Reherman, Edu, E. Hurtado.

SEMI-FINALS – 1ST LEG
Aug 9 – Medellin (Col)
NACIONAL (Col) 1 (Higuita)
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 52,000. **Ref:** Imperatore (Chi).
Nacional: Higuita, Santa, Caestano, Foronda, F. Mosquera, Garcia, Serna, Gutierrez, Morantes (Matamba 46), Angel, Angulo (Arango 46).
River Plate: Burgos, H. Diaz, C. Ayala, Corti, Altamirano, Almeyda (Riverola 82), Astrada, Gallardo, Cedres, Ortega, Amato (Lavailent 63).

Aug 10 – Guayaquil (Ecuador)
EMELEC (Ecu) 0
GREMIO (Bra) 0
Att: 35,000.
Emelec: Espinoza, Coronel, Tenorio, I. Hurtado (Munoz), Capurro, Fajardo (Vidal Gonzalez), Verduga, Reherman, Edu, Fernandez, E. Hurtado.
Gremio: Darley, Arce, Adilson, Luisiano, Rivarola, Roger, Wilson, Wagner (Alexander), Arilson, Nunez, Jardal.

SEMI-FINALS – 2ND LEG
Aug 16- Porto Alegre (Brazil)
GREMIO (Bra) 2 (Paulo Nunes, Jardel)
EMELEC (Ecu) 0
HT: 2-0.
Gremio won 2-0 on agg
Gremio: Danrlei, Arce, Adilson, Rivarola, Roger (Mancini), Dinho, Luiz Carlos, Goiano, Arilson, Carlos Miguai (Alesandre), Paulo Nunes, Jardel.
Emelec: Espinoza, Quinteros (Gonzales), I. Hurtado, Poros (Smith), Capurro, Fajardo, Verduga, Reherman, Tenorio, Edu, E. Hurtado.

Aug 16 – Buenos Aires (Arg)
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 1 (Amato)
NACIONAL (Col) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** J. Nieves (Uru).
Agg: 1-1, Nacional won 8-7 on pens
River Plate: Burgos, H. Diaz, C. Ayala, Corti, Altamirano, Almeyda, Astrada, Cedres, Gallardo, Amato, Ortega.
Nacional: Higuita, Santa, Marulanda, Foronda, F. Mosquere, Gutierrez, Serna, Pabon, Garcia, Angel (Matamba 46), Aristizabal.

LIBERTADORES CUP

Semi-finals

1ST LEG
09.08.95 Atletico Nacional v River Plate ..1-0
09.08.95 Emelec v Gremio 0-0

2ND LEG
16.08.95 River Plate v Atletico Nacional ..1-0
Agg: 1-1, Nacional won 8-7 on pens
16.08.95 Gremio v Emelec 2-0
Gremio won 2-0 on agg

Final

1ST LEG
23.08.95 Gremio v Atletico Nacional.....3-1

2ND LEG
30.08.95 Atletico Nacional v Gremio.....1-1
Gremio won 4-2 on agg

ARGENTINA

WEEK ENDING MONDAY, AUGUST 7

RACING CLUB 2 (Carrario 8, 87)
ARGENTINOS JUNIORS 0.

DEP. ESPANOL 1 (Castilio 8)
GIMNASIA Y ESGRIMA 1 (F. Fernandez 64).

BANFIELD 0
VELEZ SARSFIELD 1 (Trotta pen 68).

FERRO CARRIL OESTE 1 (Khumalo 34)
INDEPENDIENTE 1 (Mazzoni 49).

HURACAN 2 (N. Fernandez 5, Conti 39)
NEWELL'S OLD BOYS 2 (Raggio 45, Escudero 59).

ROSARIO CENTRAL 0
BELGRANO CORDOBA 0.

RIVER PLATE 2 (Cadres 50, Ortega 79)
SAN LORENZO 1 (Ruggeri 86).

PLATENSE 0
LANUS 1 (Simionatto pen 81).

WEEK ENDING MONDAY, AUGUST 14

INDEPENDIENTE 1 (Mazzoni 90)
BANFIELD 1 (Graf 75).

BELGRANO CORDOBA 0
RIVER PLATE 2 (Crespo 19, 26).

GIMNASIA Y ESGRIMA 1 (Dopazo pen 69)
GIMNASIA Y ESGRIMA JUJUY 1 (Parrella 65).

ARGENTINOS JUNIORS 0
ESTUDIANTES DE LA PLATA 0.

VELEZ SARSFIELD 1 (Camps 70)
ROSARIO CENTRAL 0.

BOCA JUNIORS 2 (Martinez pen 28, Scotto 89)
HURACAN 1 (Guerre 76).

NEWELL'S OLD BOYS 1 (Siviero 63)
PLATENSE 1 (Dalla Libera pen 13).

SAN LORENZO 1 (Ortega Sanchez 90)
RACING CLUB 0.

LANUS 1 (Lopez 74)
FERRO CARRIL OESTE 1 (Sava 50).

WEEK ENDING MONDAY, AUGUST 21

PLATENSE 0
BOCA JUNIORS 1 (Tehami 69).

ROSARIO CENTRAL 1 (Gordillo 36)
BANFIELD 1 (Rossi pen 67).

RIVER PLATE 1 (C. Ayala 4)
VELEZ SARSFIELD 1 (Asad 45).

HURACAN 1 (Gauna 8)
GIMNASIA Y ESGRIMA 1 (Morant 90).

RACING CLUB 1 (Carrario 12)
BELGRANO CORDOBA 0.

FERRO CARRIL OESTE 1 (Sanchez 63)
NEWELL'S OLD BOYS 2 (Gabrich 59, Caceres 76).

LANUS 2 (Di Carlo 11, Lopez 77)
INDEPENDIENTE 1 (Mazzoni 17).

GIMNASIA Y ESGRIMA JUJUY 1 (Cuffaro Russo 8)
COLON DE SANTA FE 0.

DEPORTIVO ESPANOL 0
ARGENTINOS JUNIORS 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Lanus	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Velez Sarsfield	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
Boca Juniors	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Racing Club	3	2	0	1	3	1	6
Newell's OB	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Gimnasia Jujuy	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Gimnasia Plata	3	0	3	0	3	3	3
San Lorenzo	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Huracan	3	0	2	1	4	5	2
Ferro Oeste	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Independiente	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Banfield	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Rosario Central	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Dep. Espanol	2	0	1	0	1	1	2
Argentinos Jun	3	0	2	1	0	2	2
Estudiantes	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Platense	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
Belgrano	3	0	1	2	0	3	1
Colon Santa Fe	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

BRAZIL

SAO PAULO CHAMPIONSHIP – SEMI-FINAL STAGE

GROUP 1
24.06.95 Mogi Mirim v Palmeiras.....2-2
24.06.95 Sao Pauylo v Guarani.....0-2
27.06.95 Mogi Mirim v Sao Paulo.....1-2
27.06.95 Palmeiras v Guarani.....2-1
01.07.95 Guarani v Mogi Mirim.....1-2
02.07.95 Palmeiras v Sao Paulo.....0-0
08.07.95 Guarani v Palmeiras.....0-0
08.07.95 Sao Paulo v Mogi Mirim.....1-2
16.07.97 Sao Paulo v Palmeiras.....0-2
16.07.95 Mogi Mirim v Guarani.....1-0
22.07.95 Palmeiras v Mogi Mirim.....5-1
22.07.95 Guarani v Sao Paulo.....2-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PALMEIRAS	6	3	3	0	10	6	12
Mogi Mirim	6	3	1	2	9	11	10
Sao Paulo	6	2	1	3	6	8	7
Guarani	6	1	1	4	7	7	4

GROUP 2
23.06.95 U. Sao Joao v Corinthians.....1-3
23.06.95 Portuguesa v Santos.....3-1
27.06.95 Santos v Corinthians.....2-2
27.06.95 Portuguesa v U. Sao Joao.....3-0
01.07.95 Corinthians v Portuguesa.....1-0
01.07.95 Santos v Uniao Sao Joao.....3-2
09.07.95 Corinthians v U. Sao Joao.....2-0
09.07.95 Santos v Portuguesa.....1-2
15.07.95 Uniao Sao Joao v Santos.....1-1
15.07.95 Portuguesa v Corinthians.....0-1
23.07.95 U. Sao Joao v Portuguesa.....1-0
23.07.95 Corinthians v Santos.....4-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CORINTHIANS	6	5	1	0	13	5	16
Portuguesa	6	3	0	3	8	5	10
Santos	6	1	2	3	10	14	5
Uniao Sao Joao	6	1	1	4	5	12	4

Final
30.07.95 Corinthians v Palmeiras 1-1
07.08.95 Palmeiras v Corinthians 1-2

PERU

NATIONAL DECENTRALIZED CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima	19	16	1	2	41	11	49
Sporting Cristal	19	12	4	3	45	19	40
Universitario	19	12	4	3	37	18	40
Cienciano	19	11	3	5	29	19	36
Dep. Sipesa	19	10	5	4	36	12	35
Dep. Municipal	19	9	4	6	37	28	31
FBC Melgar	19	9	4	6	27	24	31
Sport Boys	19	7	6	6	23	19	27
Ciclista Lima	19	6	7	6	22	30	25
San Agustin	19	6	5	8	26	29	23
Aurich Canana	19	4	6	9	25	35	18
Union Huaral	19	4	5	10	18	30	17
Alianza Atletico	19	4	4	11	21	39	16
Union Minas	19	4	4	11	20	38	16
Leon de Huanuco	19	2	6	11	7	31	12
Atletico Torino	19	0	4	15	9	41	4

CHILE

FIRST DIVISION

AFTER 15 GAMES: 1) Colo Colo, Universidad Catolica 31pts; 3) Cobreloa 28; 4) Universidad de Chile 27; 5) O'Higgins 23; 6) Osorno 22; 7) Temuco, Atacama 21; 9) Coquimbo Unido 20; 10) Union Espanola, Concepcion 19; 12) Palestino 17; 13) La Serena 14; 14) Antofagasta (14 games), Huachipato 13; 16) Everton (14 games) 9.

URUGUAY

FIRST DIVISION
(CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP)
1) Penarol 7pts; 2) Progreso 6; 3) Nacional, Wanderers 4; 5) Central, Defensor 3; 7) Basanaz, Cerro, Danubio, Liverpool, Rampla Juniors, River Plate, Sud America 2.

PARAGUAY

FIRST DIVISION
1) Cerro Porteno 20pts; 2) Olimpia 18; 3) Nacional 14; 4) Sportivo Luqueno 13; 5) Cerro Cora, Humaita 11; 7) Libertad, Sport Colombia, San Lorenzo 9; 10) Colegiales, Presidente Hayes 7; 12) Sol de America, Guarani 6.

SOUTH AFRICA

NSL CASTLE LEAGUE

TUESDAY JULY 18

AFRICAN WANDERERS 2 (Ngcobo 75 pen, Blose 82)
WITS UNIVERSITY 0.

SUNDAY JULY 23

BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 0
MAMELODI SUNS 1 (Phehla 87).

KAIZER CHIEFS 5 (Tovey 13, Rapatsa 1, 38, 43, 63)
RABALI BLACKPOOL 0.

FRIDAY JULY 28

HELLENIC 6 (Stober 13, 82, Crowie 28, 70, Armstrong 34, Nyirenda 51)
WITBANK ACES 3 (Siyangaphi 6, Peer 53, Shili 56).

SATURDAY JULY 29

MOROKA SWALLOWS 1 (Pillay 30)
CAPE TOWN SPURS 0.

SUNDAY JULY 30

AMAZULU 2 (Dlamini 27, Lubombo 89)
REAL ROVERS 1 (Sithole 68).

QWAQWA STARS 2 (Muchichwa 15, 89)
JOMO COSMOS 1 (Sekano 35).

RABALI BLACKPOOL 2 (Mulaudzi 5, 60)
WITS UNIV 4 (Nandu 2, Otiti, Tlou).

UMTATA BUCKS 0
BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 0.

VAAL PROS 2 (Marumo 55, 75)
AFRICAN WANDS 1 (Yohane 17).

FRIDAY AUGUST 4

HELLENIC 0
RABALI BLACKPOOL 0.

MANNING RANGERS 1 (Makau 67)
UMTATA BUCKS 2 (Rula 20, 74).

SATURDAY AUGUST 5

KAIZER CHIEFS 0
MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 0.

SUNDAY AUGUST 6

AFRICAN WANDERERS 2 (Phuka 79, Mkhalele 86)
MOROKA SWALLOWS 2 (Tshabalala 47, Pillay 64).

BLOMEFONTEIN CELTIC 0
VAAL PROS 2 (Shabani 42, Masilo 80).

JOMO COSMOS 1 (Morula 89)
ORLANDO PIRATES 0.

REAL ROVERS 2 (Mola 10, Sibiya 58)
QWAQWA STARS 1 (Mazibuko 67).

WITBANK ACES 1 (Mabusela 74)
CAPE TOWN SPURS 2 (Rossiee 24, Moise 80).

WITS UNIVERSITY 1 (Gordon 71)
AMAZULU 0.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

AMAZULU 2 (Magagula, Dlamini)
HELLENIC 1 (C das Neves pen).

CAPE TOWN SPURS 3 (Modise 56, 82, Bartlett 74)
AFRICAN WANDERERS 0.

WITBANK ACES 5 (Biyela 7 pen, 35, 70, Shili 75, Mofokeng 88)
AFRICAN WANDERERS 3 (Mtshali, Mkhalele, Yohane).

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 0
JOMO COSMOS 1 (Springbok 69).

MOROKA SWALLOWS 1 (Sikhonde)
BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 0.

ORLANDO PIRATES 1 (Skosana 55)
REAL ROVERS 1 (Mola 10).

QWAQWA STARS 1 (Shabani)
WITS UNIVERSITY 0.

RABALI BLACKPOOL 1 (Mukansi 56)
WITBANK ACES 1 (Shili).

UMTATA BUCKS 0
KAIZER CHIEFS 0.

VAAL PROS 2 (Marumo 2)
MANNING RANGERS 0.

SATURDAY AUGUST 12

KAIZER CHIEFS 0
VAAL PROFESSIONALS 0.

MANNING RANGERS 0
MOROKA SWALLOWS 0.

RABALI BLACKPOOL 1 (Mukansi 51)
AMAZULU 1 (Rabutla 9 og).

SUNDAY AUGUST 13

BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 0
CAPE TOWN SPURS 0.

JOMO COSMOS 1 (Sekano 63)
UMTATA BUCKS 1 (Lethebe 89).

REAL ROVERS 0
MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 0.

WITBANK ACES 5 (Biyela 7 pen, 35, 70, Shili 75, Mofokeng 88)
AFRICAN WANDERERS 3 (Mtshali, Mkhalele, Yohane).

WITS UNIV 2 (Tsotetsi 43 og, Ngandu 89)
ORLANDO PIRATES 2 (Silent 5, Mncwango 80).

TUESDAY AUGUST 15

HELLENIC 3 (Crowie 19, Stober 22, 62)
QWAQWA STARS 1 (P das Neves 67 og)

FRIDAY AUGUST 18

CAPE TOWN SPURS 0
MANNING RANGERS 0.

SATURDAY AUGUST 19

AFRICAN WANDERERS 0
BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 0.

AMAZULU 2 (Magagula 57, Goliath 59)
WITBANK ACES 1 (Siyangapfi 3).

ORLANDO PIRATES 0
HELLENIC 0.

SUNDAY AUGUST 20

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 2 (Masinga 7, R Molefe 88)
WITS UNIVERSITY 1 (McKinley 58).

MOROKA SWALLOWS 1 (Mpondo 35)
KAIZER CHIEFS 0.

QWAQWA STARS 1 (Moloi 44)
RABALI BLACKPOOL 0.

UMTATA BUCKS 1 (Leepo 20)
REAL ROVERS 0.

VAAL PROS 1 (Shabani 30)
JOMO COSMOS 1 (Sapule 65).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cape T Spurs	25	16	7	2	41	14	55
Mam. Suns	24	14	6	4	27	13	48
Kaizer Chiefs	24	13	7	4	34	13	46
Orlando Pirates	23	12	7	4	32	16	43
QwaQwa Stars	25	12	6	7	34	29	42
Hellenic	25	12	5	8	40	31	41
Vaal Pros	25	11	8	6	30	23	41
Jomo Cosmos	25	8	9	8	26	26	33
Umtata Bucks	25	9	6	10	34	36	33
AmaZulu	25	7	10	8	32	39	31
Wits University	24	8	6	10	28	31	30
Moroka	25	6	9	10	28	37	27
Real Rovers	24	6	7	11	32	41	25
Witbank Aces	25	7	4	14	32	44	25
Manning Ran	23	6	6	11	26	29	24
Bloem. Celtic	25	5	8	12	21	29	23
African Wands	25	3	8	14	26	48	17
Rabali Blackpool	25	3	7	15	25	44	10

● *Blackpool deducted 6pts for fraudulent registration.*

COCA-COLA CUP FINAL

SATURDAY JULY 22

ORLANDO PIRATES 0
WITS UNIVERSITY 1 (Otiti 44).

JAPAN

J.LEAGUE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 4 (Okayama 13, Ogura 27, Stojkovic 61, Durix 87)
JUBILO IWATA 0. **Att:** 22,573.

VERDY KAWASAKI 4 (Alcindo 11, Miura 16, 23)
BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 1 (Edson 57). **Att:** 13,931.

KASHIMA ANTLERS 0
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 2 (Takehito Suzuki 68, Medina Bello 73). **Att:** 16,162.

CEREZO OSAKA 2 (Kanda 25, Valdes 63)
KASHIWA REYSOL 1 (Sugano 56). **Att:** 9,297.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 0
SANFRECCE 1 (Hasek 84). **Att:** 20,117.

JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 2 (Jo 54, 93)
GAMBA OSAKA 1 (Yamaguchi 59). **Att:** 9,518.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 0
URAWA REDS 6 (Yamaguchi og 8, Buchwald 62, Fukuda 66 pen, 89 pen, Toninho 75, Yamada 77). **Att:** 11,954.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 16

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 0
VERDY KAWASAKI 1 (Alcindo 33). **Att:** 52,699.

BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 1 (Betinho 60 pen)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 2 (Evair 37, Zinho 54). **Att:** 13,189.

JEF UTD ICHIHARA 2 (Niimura 40, Jo 53)
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 3 (Durix 21, Ogura 22, Nakanishi 89). **Att:** 12,584.

SANFRECCE 1 (Uemura 88)
CEREZO OSAKA 0. **Att:** 15,523.

URAWA REDS 1 (Fukuda 3)
SHIMIZU S PULSE 2 (Massaro 74, Ito 80). **Att:** 21,559.

JUBILO IWATA 0
KASHIMA ANTLERS 2 (Kurosaki 23, Hashimoto 74). **Att:** 18,251.

GAMBA OSAKA 3 (Aleinikov 23, Gillhaus 70, Yamaguchi 88)
KASHIWA REYSOL 4 (Tanada 20, 93, Sugano 44, Hashiratani 67). **Att:** 10,078.

SATURDAY AUGUST 19

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 2 (Maezono 89, Zinho 105)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 1 (Bisconti 64). **Att:** 14,104.

CEREZO OSAKA 0
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 1 (Fukuda 115 pen). **Att:** 12,091.

KASHIMA ANTLERS 5 (Jorginho 34 pen, Soma 44, Hasegawa 60, 62, Kurosaki 85)
JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 1 (Ejiri 11). **Att:** 15,783.

VERDY KAWASAKI 1 (Vanenburg og 17)
JUBILO IWATA 0. **Att:** 15,757.

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 3 (Ogura 11, Asano 35, Nakanishi 79)
GAMBA OSAKA 1 (Tsveiba 36). **Att:** 21,734.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 2 (Sawanobori 44, 74)
BELLMARE 0. **Att:** 32,663.

KASHIWA REYSOL 1 (Valdir 97)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 0. **Att:** 12,429.

J.LEAGUE – NICOS SERIES

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Grampus Eight	3	3	0	10	3	9
Verdy Kawasaki	3	3	0	5	1	9
Urawa Reds	3	2	1	8	2	6
Kashima Antlers	3	2	1	7	3	6
Shimizu S Pulse	3	2	1	4	2	6
Kashiwa Reysol	3	2	1	6	5	6
Sanfrecce Hiroshima	3	2	1	2	1	6
Yokohama Flugels	3	2	1	4	8	6
Yokohama Marinos	3	1	2	3	3	3
Cerezo Osaka	3	1	2	2	3	3
JEF Utd Ichihara	3	1	2	5	9	3
Gamba Osaka	3	0	3	5	9	0
Bellmare Hiratsuka	3	0	3	2	7	0
Jubilo Iwata	3	0	3	0	7	0

Revised Spanish Primera Division fixtures

Sunday, September 3, 1995
Vallecano v Real Madrid
Zaragoza v Real Oviedo
Merida v Real Betis
Valladolid v Barcelona
La Coruna v Valencia
Celta Vigo v Compostella
Espanyol v Salamanca
Sevilla v Tenerife
Sporting Gijon v Albacete
Atletico Madrid v Real Sociedad
Athletic Bilbao v Santander

Sunday, September 10
Real Madrid v Athletic Bilbao
Real Oviedo v Vallecano
Real Betis v Zaragoza
Barcelona v Merida
Valencia v Valladolid
Compostella v La Coruna
Salamanca v Celta Vigo
Tenerife v Espanyol
Albacete v Sevilla
Real Sociedad v Sporting Gijon
Santander v Atletico Madrid

Sunday, September 17
Vallecano v Real Betis
Real Madrid v Real Oviedo
Zaragoza v Barcelona
Merida v Valencia
Valladolid v Compostella
La Coruna v Salamanca
Celta Vigo v Tenerife
Espanyol v Albacete
Sevilla v Real Sociedad
Sporting Gijon v Santander
Athletic Bilbao v Atletico Madrid

Sunday, September 24
Real Oviedo v Athletic Bilbao
Real Betis v Real Madrid
Barcelona v Vallecano
Valencia v Zaragoza
Compostella v Merida
Salamanca v Valladolid
Tenerife v La Coruna
Albacete v Celta Vigo
Atletico Madrid v Sporting Gijon
Real Sociedad v Espanyol
Santander v Sevilla

Sunday, October 1
Vallecano v Valencia
Real Madrid v Barcelona
Zaragoza v Compostella
Real Oviedo v Real Betis
Merida v Salamanca
La Coruna v Albacete
Celta Vigo v Real Sociedad
Espanyol v Santander
Sevilla v Atletico Madrid
Athletic Bilbao v Sporting Gijon

Wednesday, October 4
Real Betis v Athletic Bilbao
Barcelona v Real Oviedo
Valencia v Real Madrid
Compostella v Vallecano
Salamanca v Zaragoza
Tenerife v Merida
Sporting Gijon v Sevilla
Albacete v Valladolid
Atletico Madrid v Espanyol
Real Sociedad v La Coruna
Santander v Celta Vigo

Sunday, October 8
Vallecano v Salamanca
Real Madrid v Compostella
Zaragoza v Tenerife
Real Oviedo v Valencia
Merida v Albacete
Real Betis v Barcelona
Valladolid v Real Sociedad
La Coruna v Santander
Celta Vigo v Atletico Madrid
Espanyol v Sporting Gijon
Athletic Bilbao v Sevilla

Sunday, October 15
Barcelona v Athletic Bilbao
Valencia v Real Betis
Compostella v Real Oviedo
Salamanca v Real Madrid
Sevilla v Espanyol
Tenerife v Vallecano
Sporting Gijon v Celta Vigo
Albacete v Zaragoza
Atletico Madrid v La Coruna
Real Real Sociedad v Merida
Santander v Valladolid

Sunday, October 22
Vallecano v Albacete
Real Madrid v Tenerife
Zaragoza v Real Sociedad
Real Oviedo v Salamanca
Merida v Santander
Real Betis v Compostella
Valladolid v Atletico Madrid
Barcelona v Valencia
La Coruna v Sporting Gijon
Celta Vigo v Sevilla
Athletic Bilbao v Espanyol

Sunday, October 29
Valencia v Athletic Bilbao
Compostella v Barcelona
Espanyol v Celta Vigo
Salamanca v Real Betis
Sevilla v La Coruna
Tenerife v Real Oviedo
Sporting Gijon v Valladolid
Albacete v Real Madrid
Atletico Madrid v Merida
Real Sociedad v Vallecano
Santander v Zaragoza

Sunday, November 5
Vallecano v Santander
Real Madrid v Real Sociedad
Zaragoza v Atletico Madrid
Real Oviedo v Albacete
Merida v Sporting Gijon
Real Betis v Tenerife
Valladolid v Sevilla
Barcelona v Salamanca
La Coruna v Espanyol
Valencia v Compostella
Athletic Bilbao v Celta Vigo

Sunday, November 12
Celta Vigo v La Coruna
Compostella v Athletic Bilbao
Espanyol v Valladolid
Salamanca v Valencia
Sevilla v Merida
Tenerife v Barcelona
Sporting Gijon v Zaragoza
Albacete v Real Betis
Atletico Madrid v Vallecano
Real Sociedad v Real Oviedo
Santander v Real Madrid

Sunday, November 19
Vallecano v Sporting Gijon
Real Madrid v Atletico Madrid
Zaragoza v Sevilla
Real Oviedo v Santander
Merida v Espanyol
Real Betis v Real Sociedad
Valladolid v Celta Vigo
Barcelona v Albacete
Valencia v Tenerife
Compostella v Salamanca
Athletic Bilbao v La Coruna

Sunday, November 26
La Coruna v Valladolid
Celta Vigo v Merida
Espanyol v Zaragoza
Salamanca v Athletic Bilbao
Sevilla v Vallecano
Tenerife v Compostella
Sporting Gijon v Real Madrid
Albacete v Valencia
Atletico Madrid v Real Oviedo
Real Real Sociedad v Barcelona
Santander v Real Betis

Sunday, December 3
Vallecano v Espanyol
Real Madrid v Sevilla
Zaragoza v Celta Vigo
Real Oviedo v Sporting Gijon
Merida v La Coruna
Real Betis v Atletico Madrid
Barcelona v Santander
Valencia v Real Sociedad
Compostella v Albacete
Salamanca v Tenerife
Athletic Bilbao v Valladolid

Sunday, December 10
Valladolid v Merida
La Coruna v Zaragoza
Celta Vigo v Vallecano
Espanyol v Real Madrid
Sevilla v Real Oviedo
Tenerife v Athletic Bilbao
Sporting Gijon v Real Betis
Albacete v Salamanca
Atletico Madrid v Barcelona
Real Sociedad v Compostella
Santander v Valencia

Sunday, December 17
Vallecano v La Coruna
Real Madrid v Celta Vigo
Zaragoza v Valladolid
Real Oviedo v Espanyol
Real Betis v Sevilla
Barcelona v Sporting Gijon
Valencia v Atletico Madrid
Compostella v Santander
Salamanca v Real Sociedad
Tenerife v Albacete
Athletic Bilbao v Merida

Wednesday, December 20
Merida v Zaragoza
Valladolid v Vallecano
La Coruna v Real Madrid
Celta Vigo v Real Oviedo
Espanyol v Real Betis
Sevilla v Barcelona
Sporting Gijon v Valencia
Albacete v Athletic Bilbao
Atletico Madrid v Compostella
Real Sociedad v Tenerife
Santander v Salamanca

Wednesday, January 3, 1996
Vallecano v Merida
Real Madrid v Valladolid
Real Oviedo v La Coruna
Real Betis v Celta Vigo
Barcelona v Espanyol
Valencia v Sevilla
Compostella v Sporting Gijon
Salamanca v Atletico Madrid
Tenerife v Santander
Albacete v Real Sociedad
Athletic Bilbao v Zaragoza

Sunday, January 7
Zaragoza v Vallecano
Merida v Real Madrid
Valladolid v Real Oviedo
La Coruna v Real Betis
Celta Vigo v Barcelona
Espanyol v Valencia
Sevilla v Compostella
Sporting Gijon v Salamanca
Atletico Madrid v Tenerife
Athletic Bilbao v Real Sociedad
Santander v Albacete

Sunday, January 14
Vallecano v Athletic Bilbao
Real Madrid v Zaragoza
Real Oviedo v Merida
Real Betis v Valladolid
Barcelona v La Coruna
Valencia v Celta Vigo
Compostella v Espanyol
Salamanca v Seville
Tenerife v Sporting Gijon
Albacete v Atletico Madrid
Real Sociedad v Santander

Sunday, January 21
Real Madrid v Vallecano
Real Oviedo v Zaragoza
Real Betis v Merida
Barcelona v Valladolid
Valencia v La Coruna
Compostella v Celta Vigo
Salamanca v Espanyol
Tenerife v Sevilla
Albacete v Sporting Gijon
Real Sociedad v Atletico Madrid
Santander v Athletic Bilbao

Wednesday, January 24
Vallecano v Real Oviedo
Zaragoza v Real Betis
Merida v Barcelona
Valladolid v Valencia
La Coruna v Compostella
Celta Vigo v Salamanca
Espanyol v Tenerife
Sevilla v Albacete
Sporting Gijon v Real Sociedad
Atletico Madrid v Santander
Athletic Bilbao v Real Madrid

Sunday, January 28
Real Oviedo v Real Madrid
Real Betis v Vallecano
Barcelona v Zaragoza
Valencia v Merida
Compostella v Valladolid
Salamanca v La Coruna
Tenerife v Celta Vigo
Albacete v Barcelona
Atletico Madrid v Athletic Bilbao
Real Sociedad v Sevilla
Santander v Sporting Gijon

Sunday, February 4
Vallecano v Barcelona
Real Madrid v Real Betis
Zaragoza v Valencia
Merida v Compostella
Valladolid v Salamanca
La Coruna v Tenerife
Celta Vigo v Albacete
Espanyol v Real Sociedad
Sevilla v Santander
Sporting Gijon v Atletico Madrid
Athletic Bilbao v Real Oviedo

Sunday, February 11
Real Betis v Real Oviedo
Barcelona v Real Madrid
Valencia v Vallecano
Compostella v Zaragoza
Salamanca v Merida
Tenerife v Valladolid
Sporting Gijon v Athletic Bilbao
Albacete v La Coruna
Atletico Madrid v Sevilla
Real Sociedad v Celta Vigo
Santander v Espanyol

Sunday, February 18
Vallecano v Compostella
Real Madrid v Valencia
Zaragoza v Salamanca
Real Oviedo v Barcelona
Merida v Tenerife
Valladolid v Albacete
La Coruna v Real Sociedad
Celta Vigo v Santander
Espanyol v Atletico Madrid
Sevilla v Sporting Gijon
Athletic Bilbao v Real Betis

Sunday, February 25
Barcelona v Real Betis
Valencia v Real Oviedo
Compostella v Real Madrid
Salamanca v Vallecano
Sevilla v Athletic Bilbao
Tenerife v Zaragoza
Sporting Gijon v Espanyol
Albacete v Merida
Atletico Madrid v Celta Vigo
Real Sociedad v Valladolid
Santander v La Coruna

Sunday, March 3
Vallecano v Tenerife
Real Madrid v Salamanca
Zaragoza v Albacete
Real Oviedo v Compostella
Merida v Real Sociedad
Real Betis v Valencia
Valladolid v Santander
La Coruna v Atletico Madrid
Celta Vigo v Sporting Gijon
Espanyol v Sevilla
Athletic Bilbao v Barcelona

Sunday, March 10
Valencia v Barcelona
Compostella v Real Betis
Espanyol v Athletic Bilbao
Salamanca v Real Oviedo
Sevilla v Celta Vigo
Tenerife v Real Madrid
Sporting Gijon v La Coruna
Albacete v Vallecano
Atletico Madrid v Valladolid
Real Sociedad v Zaragoza
Santander v Merida

Sunday, March 17
Vallecano v Real Sociedad
Real Madrid v Albacete
Zaragoza v Santander
Real Oviedo v Tenerife
Merida v Atletico Madrid
Real Betis v Salamanca
Valladolid v Sporting Gijon
Barcelona v Compostella
La Coruna v Sevilla
Celta Vigo v Espanyol
Athletic Bilbao v Valencia

Sunday, March 24
Celta Vigo v Athletic Bilbao
Compostella v Valencia
Espanyol v La Coruna
Salamanca v Barcelona
Sevilla v Valladolid
Tenerife v Real Betis
Sporting Gijon v Merida
Albacete v Real Oviedo
Atletico Madrid v Zaragoza
Real Sociedad v Real Madrid
Santander v Vallecano

Wednesday, March 27
Vallecano v Atletico Madrid
Real Madrid v Santander
Zaragoza v Sporting Gijon
Real Oviedo v Real Sociedad
Merida v Sevilla
Real Betis v Albacete
Valladolid v Espanyol
Barcelona v Tenerife
La Coruna v Celta Vigo
Valencia v Salamanca
Athletic Bilbao v Compostella

Sunday, March 31
La Coruna v Athletic Bilbao
Celta Vigo v Valladolid
Espanyol v Merida
Salamanca v Compostella
Sevilla v Zaragoza
Tenerife v Valencia
Sporting Gijon v Vallecano
Albacete v Barcelona
Athletic Madrid v Real Madrid
Real Sociedad v Real Betis
Santander v Real Oviedo

Sunday, April 7
Vallecano v Sevilla
Real Madrid v Sporting Gijon
Zaragoza v Espanyol
Real Oviedo v Atletico Madrid
Merida v Celta Vigo
Real Betis v Santander
Valladolid v La Coruna
Barcelona v Real Sociedad
Valencia v Albacete
Compostella v Tenerife
Athletic Bilbao v Salamanca

Sunday, April 14
Valladolid v Athletic Bilbao
La Coruna v Merida
Celta Vigo v Zaragoza
Espanyol v Vallecano
Sevilla v Real Madrid
Tenerife v Salamanca
Sporting Gijon v Real Oviedo
Albacete v Compostella
Atletico Madrid v Real Betis
Real Sociedad v Valencia
Santander v Barcelona

Sunday, April 21
Vallecano v Celta Vigo
Real Madrid v La Coruna
Real Oviedo v Sevilla
Merida v Valladolid
Real Betis v Sporting Gijon
Barcelona v Atletico Madrid
Valencia v Santander
Compostella v Real Sociedad
Salamanca v Albacete
Athletic Bilbao v Tenerife

Sunday, April 28
Merida v Athletic Bilbao
Valladolid v Zaragoza
La Coruna v Vallecano
Celta Vigo v Real Madrid
Espanyol v Real Oviedo
Sevilla v Real Betis
Sporting Gijon v Barcelona
Albacete v Tenerife
Atletico Madrid v Valencia
Real Sociedad v Salamanca
Santander v Compostella

Sunday, May 5
Vallecano v Valladolid
Real Madrid v La Coruna
Zaragoza v Merida
Real Oviedo v Celta Vigo
Real Betis v Espanyol
Barcelona v Sevilla
Valencia v Sporting Gijon
Compostella v Atletico Madrid
Salamanca v Santander
Tenerife v Real Sociedad
Athletic Bilbao v Albacete

Sunday, May 12
Zaragoza v Athletic Bilbao
Merida v Vallecano
Valladolid v Real Madrid
La Coruna v Real Oviedo
Celta Vigo v Real Betis
Espanyol v Barcelona
Sevilla v Valencia
Sporting Gijon v Compostella
Atletico Madrid v Salamanca
Real Sociedad v Albacete
Santander v Tenerife

Sunday, May 19
Vallecano v Zaragoza
Real Madrid v Merida
Real Oviedo v Valladolid
Real Betis v La Coruna
Barcelona v Celta Vigo
Valencia v Espanyol
Compostella v Sevilla
Salamanca v Sporting Gijon
Tenerife v Atletico Madrid
Albacete v Santander
Real Sociedad v Athletic Bilbao

Sunday, May 26
Zaragoza v Real Madrid
Merida v Real Oviedo
Valladolid v Real Betis
La Coruna v Barcelona
Celta Vigo v Valencia
Espanyol v Compostella
Sevilla v Salamanca
Sporting Gijon v Tenerife
Atletico Madrid v Albacete
Athletic Bilbao v Vallecano
Santander v Real Sociedad

Letters to the Editor

We want to hear your views and opinions. If you want to comment on any aspect of the world game, or reply to an opinion already expressed on these pages, send a letter, preferably typed, to Keir Radnedge at WORLD SOCCER magazine, IPC Magazines, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. Or send us a fax on 0171-261 7474

MUG'S GAME

RECENTLY (August 8) I purchased a Manchester United team mug from the club's store as a present for a nephew. On inspecting it for chips, cracks, etc, I noticed the names of departed players such as Ince and Hughes still adorned it. Immediately I rang the store, thinking that I had inadvertently chosen an out-of-date item from old stock and wanting to replace it with the latest version. However, it soon became apparent from my conversation that this was the up-to-date version and that the item would not be updated until the end of this season. Shouldn't clubs take a little more care about their merchandising?
JOHN BYRNE, Salford, Manchester

I suppose the lesson to be learned is that customers should beware. Club shops are run on the same lines as any other shop: existing stock has to be cleared before the new ranges can be ordered up. English clubs lead the way, in Europe at least, in commercialisation of their names. That is why, incidentally, so many clubs have changed their badges in the past decade. They realised that their old, traditional designs were being ripped off by pirate products and therefore commissioned new logotypes which could be legally registered and thus protected. It hasn't stopped the pirates but at least you know now, with most clubs, what is official and what isn't. Sadly, of course, many clubs believe that the 'official' label is worth a premium on top of the item price. I know clubs such as Manchester United, Tottenham, Arsenal and the rest say, quite logically, that choice of purchase is up to the consumer: if you don't want to pay the price, don't buy the item. But buying a replica strip or even a mug is not like buying a packet of corn flakes. If you support Manchester United, buying a Manchester City kit or strip just won't do! Then again there are, I suppose, mugs and . . . mugs.

DRAFT DODGERS

THE TRANSFER of players between clubs has got out of all proportion with the talent being concentrated in a few rich clubs in the major Europe leagues, with the exception of France and Germany. Do you think a system similar to the American football 'draft' should be adopted?
David Fletcher, Folkestone, Kent

Absolutely not. The transfer market provides a hugely entertaining sideshow, helps finance the game at a lower level and contributes to the game's ongoing promotions and publicity machine. What I do favour is a restriction on the opening of the transfer market. I think it would be in the game's interest for all the major leagues to conduct their business in the close-season with perhaps a mid-season 'window'.

QUESTION OF CAPS

I AM a Peruvian football statistician most concerned about the different records published concerning Hector Chumpitaz, our former national captain. Carlos Enciso, a journalist with the *Ovacion* newspaper of Peru, is mistaken, I believe, with his claim – which FIFA, among others, appears to have accepted – that Chumpitaz played 111 times for the national team. I have researched the national team records and it seems to me that up to 15 of the games claimed should not be counted. At the most Chumpitaz played 105 times for Peru between 1965 and 1981. Why do such problems arise concerning national team appearances?
TITO TICERAN, Luis Montero, Lima, Peru

Happily, modern communications and the explosion in interest in soccer statistics means that such uncertainties as national team appearances will gradually fade away. The reason disagreements arose – and still arise – concerning past players is twofold. First, many countries have never kept 'official' records until comparatively recently. Secondly, there has never been any firm agreement on what constitutes an 'official' match. Many of us consider the Saudi claims for Majid Mohammed to be shaky, considering the nature and status of many of the minor matches in which he is registered for his world record 157 games. But, if the Saudis consider them all official internationals, then that is good enough. In some cases, so-called international matches took place which are considered official by one country and unofficial by the other. In the 1950s France played a number of matches in which they sent out a B team against the senior national team of a minnow neighbour, such as Luxembourg. To the French it was not an international, to Luxembourg it was! The Americans, preparing every imaginable statistic for the 1994 World Cup finals, were astonished at the inconsistency of international soccer records. The director of the ABC network's domestic TV coverage sent a special memo to all commentary staff warning them that, unlike American sports, soccer does not have an official statistic resource. Perhaps FIFA might like to set a standard and tell us all about it.

YOUNG TALENT

THE Scottish League needs to be radically restructured to allow the young players, such as Glass at Aberdeen and Gray at Celtic, who did well in the Toulon Tournament, to flourish. The present 10-team Premier Division places these players under enormous pressure, either fighting to survive, or struggling for a European place and smothers development of technique. Scotland should follow the example of Holland, where young players can develop freely.
LIAM HAVERTY, Tralee, Rep Ireland

I don't believe this is exclusively a Scottish problem. It's a dilemma everywhere. But I think the Scottish professional game has seen enough attempts at restructuring for a while. Let's be realistic: if you play for say, Celtic, you will always be under pressure to succeed. That is the essence of the professional game, I'm afraid, and will never change. It's sink or swim.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

CAN you tell me why the organisers suddenly felt that the South American Championship was not appropriately named and that a title change, together with a face-lift, was in order, presumably for the well-being of the game? And why, having pretentiously named the competition Copa America so that the entire American continent could be represented, were the ollowing missing: Canada, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Belize? Secondly, will you clarify whether it was legal for Argentina to line up nine reserves in their crucial qualifying match with the United States, whose 3-0 win qualified them at the expense of Bolivia who had earlier played, and lost, to a full-strength Argentina? Perhaps UEFA might consider inviting the United States to compete in the 2000 European Championship. After all, geographically the United States is as far from Europe as it is from Uruguay and, culturally at least, the competition would not have to be renamed?
ZOLA SOOKIAS, New York, USA

The South American Championship is the oldest existing specific international football tournament. This does not mean that the Copa America has enjoyed unquestioned respect. For most of its life, the nations could not even organise the event on a regular schedule and, usually, most of the key players of Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay were banned from participating by their European clubs. So CONMEBOL, the South American confederation, decided to create a formal trophy and new title and to time it out of the European season. Raising the status of the competition also raised its importance in the eyes of the competing nations and players. It was decided to invite the United States and Mexico not least because of the extra television and sponsorship revenues which their participation could bring. As for the 'America' reference, anyone who has travelled in what we call 'South America' knows that to the peoples living there, the southern chunk of the continent is known, simply, as 'America'.

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Brian Glanville's
LAST WORD

A case of Canossa and Cantona

Ferguson *(above left)* . . . 'Cosy dinner at a French restaurant with Cantona'

Cantona *(right)* . . . still coveted by Internazionale

ALEX FERGUSON has come to Canossa. Or rather, to Paris, but the scenario is rather the same, even though it was hot in Paris and so cold in Canossa that the Emperor Henry IV had to stand in the snow, to be humbled by the Pope.

That happened hundreds of years ago, but it was as late as the late 19th century that Bismarck, the German Chancellor, having quarrelled with a Pope, thundered, "We shall not come to Canossa."

Ferguson flew to Paris to persuade his wayward star, Eric Cantona, to change his mind and stay with Manchester United, after Cantona had flounced out of Manchester, reportedly because he was upset at the FA ban on his playing in private practice matches.

On the face of it, Ferguson achieved his wish. A cosy dinner at a French restaurant, lovingly described by those journalists profoundly privileged to come to Canossa – I'm sorry, Paris – in their turn. A reconciliation. Cantona pledged to United again. It had all, apparently, ended happy ever after; and the meal had been superb.

Here's to the next time. Internazionale and their new young president, Massimo Moratti, are certainly not convinced, and still hope to acquire the volatile Cantona in November. Whether they are any wiser to want him than are United to keep him remains debatable. In coming to Canossa – correction: Paris – Ferguson made himself a supplicant to a player who may well have won him two championships, as I believe he did, but whose antics and excesses have been as alarming as they were in his native France.

We must still be thankful that when Cantona furiously assaulted an admittedly provocative lout, it should be at Crystal Palace, rather than at one of those grounds where he might not have lived to tell the tale.

An excess, this, which arguably cost United a third championship, for with Cantona in their ranks they were surely a superior team to the pedestrian Blackburn. A club whose strange passivity in the summer transfer market was extraordinary, when you think of the funds Jack Walker put at their disposal.

Then, of course, there was United's sale of Paul Ince. Watching his excellent display at Highbury in the friendly against Arsenal, unimpaired by the breathing problems he had that evening, knowing how well he'd played in Inter's previous friendlies, one marvels at United's willingness to let him go.

If, as has been rumoured, Ince and Ferguson had their disagreements, nothing Ince did on or off the field matched the eruptions of Cantona. Hard to see who can replace him.

Which bring us to Mark Hughes. Ferguson's relations with him were always strangely ambivalent. Time after time – such as in European Cup ties in Istanbul and Barcelona, a crucial League match at Chelsea – he was left out, and badly missed.

In the very last game of last season, at West Ham, when United would have taken the title had they won, Ferguson kept Hughes on the bench until the second half. Then on he went, revitalised the United attack, and the game was so nearly won.

Had Ferguson, in a remarkable, and remarkably revealing, interview on *Radio 5 Live*, appreciated this, when he extolled Hughes as "a legend, a real legend," and said how well his team played at Upton Park in that second half?

More mysterious still was his declaration that the sudden transfer of Hughes to Chelsea had "surprised" him; and that he didn't know Hughes hadn't signed his new contract!

'Ferguson achieved his wish . . . Cantona pledged to United again. It had all ended happy ever after; and the meal had been superb'

This despite the fact that after it had seemed Hughes would join Everton, Hughes had been paraded before United's delighted supporters, on the strength of his having agreed terms to stay. Ferguson, after all, is the manager, and hardly an ineffectual one.

The Kanchelskis case has been a further source of bewilderment. Not least because he was told at United he was fit, only to have a double hernia diagnosed . . . when he went to Jim McGregor, the physio whom United had jettisoned!

By the time you read this Kanchelskis will no doubt have moved one, for whatever the ins and outs of the Everton-Shaktor Donetsk affair, it was clear that his breach with the club and the manager was as wide as the Pacific.

Oh: and what was agent Denis Roach doing in Milan at one point last summer, talking to Inter about Cantona?

CRAGNOTTI VERSUS ZOFF

SERGIO CRAGNOTTI, Lazio's owner, and Dino Zoff, the president, may well have parted company by now. As I write, it is very much on the cards and seems bound to happen, sooner or later.

This will greatly interest Paul Gascoigne, who in an interview with Italian journalists, when Sampdoria played in a pre-season tournament at Ibrox, blamed both men bitterly for allegedly trying to see him behind his back, and generally letting him down.

By contrast, he had nothing but praise and goodwill for the club manager, that dour Czech Zdenek Zeman, seemingly unaware that his own days were numbered as soon as Zeman was appointed, and that Cragnotti, playing Pilate, had washed his hands of Gazza, saying he'd leave the decision of whether to keep him at the season's end to Zeman. A foregone conclusion.

When Cragnotti relinquished the Lazio presidency, he appointed Zoffi, until then the manager, as a kind of proxy. It was an invidious position.

Zoff, after his many successful years as goalkeeper and manager – especially when in charge of Juventus – is hardly a poor man. But nor is he in the league of those immensely wealthy men who run the major Italian clubs. His powers were ultimately limited. Really no more, in some ways even less, than a manager's. He who pays the piper calls the tune.

The rift seems to have opened when Cragnotti felt Zoff didn't do enough to assuage the ire of the Lazio fans when he planned to sell Giuseppe Signori, their idol, to Parma, for 25 billion lire.

The fans paraded thousands strong through the streets of the capital, all the way from the club's new offices off Viale Angelico, through the historic centre, to Cragnotti's offices. As we know, Cragnotti was obliged to climb down. Signori stayed.

Then, when he wanted to publicise his newly-formed company in Japan, where Lazio, bizarrely, went for pre-season training, Zoff didn't go out to join him. There were angry exchanges, Cragnotti insisting, *inter alia*, that when it came to the big financial decisions, it was his writ that ran. Which might even have been taken for granted.

The two men could scarcely be more different. Cragnotti a wheeling dealing entrepreneur, who came very late to football, and enjoys its reflected glories. Zoff a sober, serious, dedicated man from the quiet North East – like Enzo Bearzot – whose whole life has been spent in soccer. And who must surely look forward to being a manager again, with properly defined powers.

RED CARDS, DEAD LETTERS

DEADEST of dead letters is the International Board rule of 1994 that any foul tackle from behind be punished by a red card.

The 1994 World Cup referees ignored it. Joao Havelange didn't even seem – any more than FIFA – to understand it. He trumpeted before the finals began that any referee who didn't send a player off, just for a tackle from behind, would be on the next plane home!

Gigi Cagni, manager of Piacenza, had a point when he recently said, "At this stage, anyone can be a referee." So much ground had been cut from under the referee's feet that in many ways he's been rendered "*uninfluential.*"

Cagni also deplored the newish pass-back rule. "They wanted the goalkeeper to stop handling back passes to save time. Instead, it's just the contrary. The goalkeeper smashes the ball into the stand with incredible violence."

A to Z OF THE WORLD'S GREAT GROUNDS

By SIMON INGLIS, author of *The Football Grounds of Great Britain* and *The Football Grounds of Europe*

YUGOSLAVIA

● MANY a football ground in the former Yugoslavia now serves as a cemetery. It is therefore impossible to think of Red Star's stadium simply in terms of a sunken, single-tier bowl with a sweeping roof over one side, in a rather upmarket district of Belgrade, when recent visitors have described it as a place where politicians, racketeers and, since 1991, blood-stained warlords have gathered to make deals and glory in the achievements of Serbian nationalism. Locals call it the 'Marakana' but at the real Maracana they idolise the likes of Pele and Romario, not the 'heroes' of ethnic cleansing. And if there are no Bosnians or Croats to fight, as was shown when the new rump Yugoslavian team played Uruguay at the stadium in March, there are always fans of Red Star's hated rivals, Partizan, to abuse from behind the fences. Not a pleasant scenario, by all accounts, and a reminder to us all of how the rivalries we love to play up in our own football grounds are harmless only so long as they don't blind us to the real consequences of hatred.
***WORLD SOCCER* rating** as a stadium, 7 (out of 10)

YOKOHAMA

● ROME'S Olympic Stadium was just about made ready for the 1994 World Cup with 24 hours to spare. It could be touch and go for Paris in 1998. But in Yokohama, Japan's second largest city, they started building the 70,000 capacity International Sports Stadium in 1994, and expect it to be ready for J.League rivals, Marinos and Flugels, by 1997. By then we will know if Japan will be hosting the 2002 World Cup, and if so, it is certain that this – and not the 55,000 capacity Tokyo Olympic Stadium – will be the venue for the opening ceremony and Final (although central Tokyo is only 15 minutes away by train). In a country where both tennis and baseball are played in state-of-the-art stadia with retractable roofs – the land of the hiding sun? – plans for Yokohama's Stadium show it to be a conventional football and athletics stadium. But then so high are building costs in Japan that according to official sources the 15,000 seat Kashima Antlers football-only stadium cost a staggering £450m. If true, that would be enough to build 22 such stadia in England! No wonder a cup of coffee costs so much in Japan. Start saving now, globetrotters!

YOUNG BOYS, BERN

Name
Wankdorf Stadion
Capacity
38,000 (18,000 seats)
Opened
1925, expanded 1937, rebuilt for 1954 World Cup
Location
In the midst of an athletics and training area, in the district of Wankdorf, a short bus or tram from the centre, close to the junction of the N1 and N6 motorways.

● IN 1954, 55,000 packed into the Wankdorf Stadion for one of the World Cup's greatest ever Finals. Nowadays, despite retaining its *de facto* status as the Swiss national stadium, it is in uncomfortable limbo. Last used for a European final in 1989, there have been very sensible plans since then to rebuild it into a £52m two-tier venue holding 36,000 all-seated, surrounded by commercial premises (as at Oslo and Copenhagen). But while the usual Swiss planning process – asking every grandmother, birdwatcher and psychologist for their views on the potential hazards before daring to lay a single brick – grinds on, Wankdorf remains a pleasant but out-moded ground, with a 1950s main stand, traditional floodlight pylons, some 9,000 uncovered seats but usual crowds of only 6,000 for matches involving the resident team, Young Boys. Time, methinks, for them to grow up, especially if FIFA and UEFA ever want to stage another final on their home patch.
***WORLD SOCCER* rating** 6 (out of 10)

YEREVAN

● *WORLD SOCCER* described the atmosphere at the 1985 World Youth Championships as 'depressingly joyless' and the idea of staging a World Cup in the USSR – then being mooted by FIFA – as frightening. But at the outlying venues, in Tblisi, Minsk, Baku and Yerevan (in Armenia), the yoke of Soviet Communism has since been lifted and each is now the national stadium of an independent republic. With Mount Ararat a snowy peak on the horizon, the impressive 70,000 capacity Razdan Stadium *(right)* was built in 1970 and is similar to the Nepstadion, Budapest, with an upper tier which extends only half-way around the bowl. But concrete bowls were all very well when it came to glorifying the regime. Now, Yeveran faces a familiar post-glasnost problem that its domestic game cannot afford to upgrade the place, and yet membership of UEFA demands it.

Flashback

MARCO VAN BASTEN, one of the most gifted footballers of his generation, celebrates his hat-trick against England in the 1988 European Championships – one of many highlights in a glittering career tragically cut short through injury. The 30-year-old Dutchman, World Player of the Year in 1988 and 1992 and three-times European Footballer of the Year, last month admitted defeat in his battle to overcome the chronic ankle injury that sidelined him for nearly three seasons.

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